



FILE - In this March 12, 2002 file photo, the color-coded terrorism warning system is shown in Washington. The Homeland Security Department is proposing to discontinue the color-coded terror alert system that became a symbol of the country's post-9/11 jitters and the butt of late-night talk show jokes. The system's demise would not be the end of terror alerts; instead the alerts would become more descriptive and not as colorful. (AP Photo/Joe Marquette, File)

Color-coded terror warnings on track to disappear

By EILEEN SULLIVAN, Associated Press
WASHINGTON — Goodbye danger defined as yellow, orange and red.

The Homeland Security Department is looking to scrap the five-tiered color-coded terror warning system in favor of a streamlined one with as few as two alerts. The post-9/11, Bush-era system has been criticized as too vague to be useful in communicating the terror threat to the public, either ignored or the butt of jokes.

One option under consideration is to go to two threat levels instead of five: elevated and imminent. When the threat level would change to imminent under the new model, government officials would be expected to be as specific as possible in describing the threat without jeopardizing national security.

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Happy Thanksgiving



On November 25, 2010 at 9 a.m. the 83rd Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade will begin. The parade travels down Central Park West from 77th Street to Columbus Circle along Central Park South to 7th Avenue, down 7th Avenue to 42nd Street, along 42nd Street to 6th Avenue, down 6th Avenue to 34th Street and along 34th Street to Macy's Herald Square (34th Street). The parade will last for approximately 3 hours.

Obama spares turkeys 'shellacking' he got at polls



President Barack Obama pets 'Apple,' the National Thanksgiving turkey during a ceremony in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington, Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2010. National Turkey Federation Chairman Yubert Envia, left, and first daughters, Sasha, second from right, and Malia, right, watch.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE,
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Barack Obama performed an annual rite of presidents on Wednesday, pardoning a pair of turkeys on Thanksgiving Eve and cracking jokes about the competition that brought them to his famous doorstep.

"For the record, let me say that it feels pretty good to stop at least one shellacking this November," Obama said in the White House Rose Garden, where he was flanked by daughters Malia and Sasha. A "shellacking" is how Obama described the beating Democrats suffered

in elections earlier this month; the party lost control of the House and saw its Senate majority trimmed by six seats. Apple and Cider, two 21-week-old, 45-pound turkeys raised on a farm outside Modesto, Calif., were plucked from a group of 25 birds during a competition "that involved strutting their stuff before a panel of judges, with an eclectic mix of music playing in the background," Obama said.

He called it a "turkey version" of "Dancing With the Stars," the program that crowned its newest winner Tuesday night. "Except the stakes for the contestants was much higher," Obama said, laughing. "Only one pair would survive and win the big prize. Life." Apple and Cider bring Obama's pardon total to four — four turkeys, that is. Last year, he pardoned a pair of turkeys named Courage and Carolina. He has not yet issued any pardons for humans.

The president wished America's families, including many buffeted by the economic slump, a safe and happy holiday. He also thanked the men and women of the U.S. military for serving "bravely and selflessly" in places far away from home. Afterward, Obama approached the table where Apple was positioned and stroked the bird's head. When finished, he said: "All right, have a good life," then he and his daughters walked up the steps and into the Oval Office. Apple and Cider were then driven to the home of George Washington, the nation's first president, in nearby Mount Vernon, Va. For the past five years, the presidentially pardoned turkeys had been sent to Disneyland in California, upsetting animal rights activists who preferred to see the birds slip quietly into retirement instead of becoming tourist attractions. Later Wednesday, Obama

and his family delivered two turkeys that did not receive pardons to Martha's Table, a local charity that provides meals and other community services. A Pennsylvania turkey farm donated the birds. The president, his daughters, Malia and Sasha, first lady Michelle Obama and her mother, Marian Robinson, volunteered alongside friends and family, passing out turkeys, stuffing and other Thanksgiving staples. It was a return visit for the first family, who also worked at the pantry during last year's holiday. Obama, in shirt sleeves, greeted patrons and their children with holiday wishes and high-fives, winking at toddlers as he packed bags with supplies. He picked up an overflowing bag and handed it to a woman, cautioning her, "It's heavy." He brightened at the sight of a toddler. "Hey, cutie pie!" he said, waving at the child. □

Let's be thankful for a D'Licious Dinner & Show for Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving lights up the stage at Zissles



PALM BEACH — Zissles invites you to a spectacular dinner show for Thanksgiving complete with Pumpkin Soup, Ham & Turkey and Pecan Pie and so much more delicious appetizers, entrees and desserts to choose from. This is a dinner show that

shouldn't be missed. Zissles is Aruba's hottest new venue showcasing the spectacular dinner show D'Licious that has been delighting both locals and island guests on the island since this summer. This is top-notch stage design and lighting, vibrant costumes,

upbeat music, excellent food and libations, and amazing singing and dancing offer an unforgettable multi-sensory experience.

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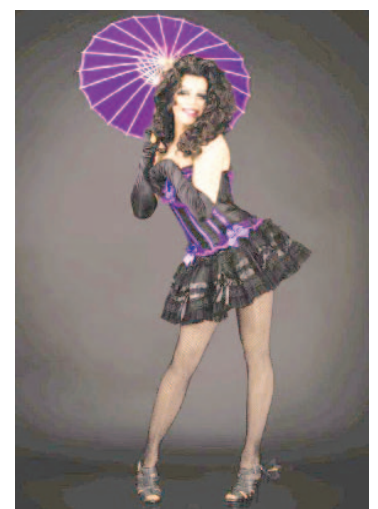
singled out as the cream of the crop in Europe. After some intense preparation for the show, these nine dancers, four singers, and one host-cum-transvestite performer packed their bags and headed across the Atlantic to Aruba.

The group's positive energy is tangible onstage as well. Each performer is entirely invested in D'Licious because they have made this production from scratch together. Plus, the stage layout allows the

performers to interact with the guests during the show, creating a light, amiable atmosphere. After the show, the singers and dancers mingle with the guests as Zissles turns into a nightclub for the remainder of the evening.

Want to experience this phenomenal international cast live? Zissles is located at Paseo Herencia Mall. Call for reservations at 586-3800.

Tickets are available at www.zissles.com. □



COLOR CODE

Continued from Front Page

And an imminent threat would not last longer than a week, meaning the public wouldn't see a consistently high and ambiguous threat level.

The 8-year-old alert system, with its rainbow of colors — from green, signifying a low threat, to red, meaning severe — has become a fixture in airports, government buildings and on newscasts.

Over the past four years, millions of travelers have begun and ended their trips to the sound of airport recordings warning that the threat level was orange, an alert that has become so routine that many now simply tune it out. This could be the last holiday season they hear the monotonous message.

U.S. officials confirmed the recommendation for a change had been made to President Barack Obama, who has final say in the matter. The details of the proposal were described to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because no final decisions have been made.

The current system was one of the Bush administration's most visible anti-terrorism programs.

The color has stayed the same since 2006: yellow for the country as a whole, meaning an elevated or significant risk, and orange for the aviation sector, a high risk. But the government has changed security protocols during that time without changing the color of the threat. For example, new airport security measures were introduced after a terrorist tried to bring down a Detroit-bound jetliner last Christmas.

The Homeland Security Department would not discuss the specific recommendations or estimate when a new system might be rolled out. The current color system remains in place.

"The overall sense is that we can do a better job of helping inform the public," Transportation Security Administrator John Pistole told the AP. There are several options on the table, he said. "For example, at the airport, instead of having that same

recording that we've heard for all these years, replacing that with something more meaningful and relevant and timely."

In July 2009, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano ordered a review of the system. Earlier this year, the department decided the best way forward would be to scrap the colors and use more descriptive language to talk about terror threats. With a new system, there would be an understanding with the public that there is a baseline level of vigilance needed in the U.S., but when the government gets information that suggests the threat is more specific, the new system would be used to communicate those details. One of the recommended names for the new system is the National Terrorist Advisory System, replacing the current Homeland Security Advisory System.

As part of her review in 2009, Napolitano solicited comments from the public about the current system. Some likened the color-coded system to the boy who cried wolf. Others criticized it for not following the natural color spectrum.

Under the current system, green, at the bottom, signals a low danger of attack; blue signals a general risk; yellow, a significant risk; orange, a high risk, and red, at the top, warns of a severe threat. Since the outset, the nation has never been below the third threat level, yellow — an elevated or significant risk of terrorist attack.

The use of colors emerged from a desire to clarify the nonspecific threat information that intelligence officials were receiving after the 2001 terrorist attacks.

"We had no way of informing the public," former Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said Wednesday. Ridge helped develop the system in 2002 when he was the president's homeland security adviser, and he also helped with the 2009 review. The question, he said, has always been: "How do you inform the general public that the threat is different tomorrow than it's been today?"

"I'm anxious to see what their alternative is to this," Ridge said.

From the beginning, officials knew comedians would have a field day with the concept, Ridge wrote in a 2009 book.

Late-night TV host Conan O'Brien chimed in just days after the Bush administration announced it in March 2002.

"Earlier this week, Homeland Security Adviser Tom Ridge announced a new color-coded warning system. A color-coded system to keep the public informed about disasters. Seems like a good idea," O'Brien said. "Yeah, apparently red is the highest alert, and it means Dick Cheney is about to eat a mozzarella stick."

The colors weren't part of the original concept, said John Fenzele, an Army special forces officer who



Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-NJ, looks on as Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano gestures in the Trenton train station Monday Nov. 22, 2010, in Trenton, N.J., promoting the 'If you see something, say something' campaign. Napolitano says the procedure for airline security screenings isn't likely to change anytime soon.

(AP Photo/Mel Evans)

led the development eight and refining the system." years ago. "I think it's a Fenzele said, "I don't think positive development that ... necessarily that the colors they're looking at revisions were at all vital." □

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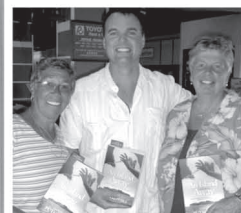
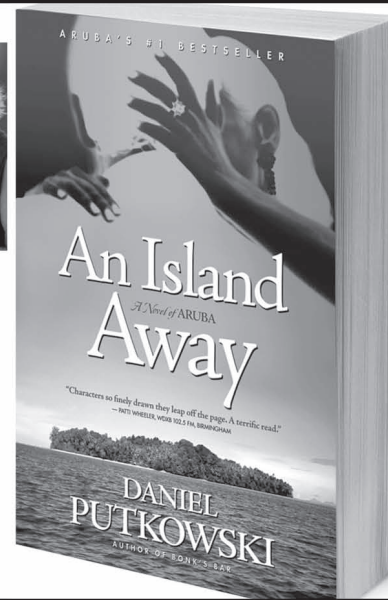
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Airport lines move smoothly despite warnings



Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officer pats down a traveler as he works his way through security at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport in Bloomington, Minn., Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2010.

(AP Photo/Craig Lassig)

By **MICHAEL TARM,**
Associated Press

CHICAGO — The lines moved smoothly at airports around the country Wednesday afternoon despite an Internet campaign to get Thanksgiving travelers to gum up the works on one of the busiest days of the year by refusing full-body

scans.

The Transportation Security Administration said very few passengers opted out. And there were only scattered protesters — including, presumably, a man seen walking around the Salt Lake City airport in a skimpy, Speedo-style bathing suit, and

a woman wearing a bikini in Los Angeles.

After days of tough talk on the Internet and warnings of possible delays, some passengers decided to go to the airport especially early and were pleasantly surprised. Retirees Bill and Margaret Selfridge arrived three hours ahead of schedule at the Minneapolis-St. Paul airport for their flight to Washington. It took only 10 minutes to get through the checkpoint at 8 a.m.

"Now we get to drink a lot of coffee," Bill Selfridge said. Catherine Pfeiffer, 40, of Austin, Texas, changed planes at the Atlanta airport and said she had no major objection to the security screenings: "If you don't want to go through the hassle, don't fly."

A loosely organized effort dubbed National Opt-Out Day planned to use fliers, T-shirts and, in one case, a Scottish

kilt to protest what some call unnecessarily intrusive X-ray scans and pat-downs. The security screenings have been lampooned on "Saturday Night Live" and mocked on T-shirts, bumper stickers and underwear emblazoned "Don't Touch My Junk," from a line uttered by a defiant traveler in San Diego.

But the weather was shaping up as a much bigger threat, especially in the West: A ferocious, early-season snowstorm pummeled the Rockies, bringing whiteout conditions to parts of the region and closing roads. It was expected to delay air travelers and people who probably thought they were doing the smart thing by driving. Also, heavy rain was forecast in the Midwest. And windy weather in New England could create snags. More than 40 million people plan to travel over the

Thanksgiving holiday, according to AAA, with more than 1.6 million flying — a 3.5 percent increase from last year.

Two protesters at the Phoenix airport held signs decrying "porno-scans" and drew sidelong glances from some passengers but words of support from others, who told them, "Thank you for being here." The protesters, husband and wife Patricia Stone and John Richards of Chandler, Ariz., said the TSA has taken security too far. "Just because you buy a plane ticket doesn't mean you have to subject yourself to awful security measures. It's not a waiver of your rights," said Stone, 44. "The TSA is security theater. They're not protecting us." But at security lines at the airport, one of the nation's 10 busiest, lines were moving quickly and steadily. In fact, wait times for security checks at major U.S. airports from San Francisco to New York were 20 minutes or less Wednesday morning, according to the TSA, and no serious disruptions were reported. Asked early Wednesday if the protests were having any noticeable effect, TSA chief John Pistole told The Associated Press, "Not that we've seen overall. I mean we've, you know, had a couple of one-offs here and there." "So far, so good," he said. "No long wait times or anything." □

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March 10th, 2010
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SUZUKI SWIFT
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PONIMIN AMATSARIP
April 3rd, 2010
Mystery Bonus Jackpot:
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casino:
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Mystery Bonus Jackpot:
FORD MUSTANG
casino:
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Mystery Bonus Jackpot:
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casino:
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Powerful storm to bring snow, ice to the Dakotas



A passerby looks at a truck rolled on its side on East Newton Street in Seattle's Eastlake Neighborhood the morning after snow and ice wreaked havoc with Seattle-area roads. Neighbors said the truck hit about 10 vehicles as it careened down the icy street the night before. Police received thousands of reports of automobile accidents throughout the region. Photographed on Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2010.

(AP Photo/Seattlepi.com, Joshua Trujillo)

By JAMES MacPHERSON, Associated Press
BISMARCK, N.D. — A powerful storm that pummeled much of the West is promising to bring its chaotic mix of snow, sleet and ice to much of the Dakotas on Thanksgiving Day. The system closed roads and delayed flights from

Anchorage to Salt Lake City on some of the busiest travel days of the year.

Meteorologists warned residents in the Dakotas to expect a range of messy wintry weather, from freezing drizzle in the eastern two-thirds of South Dakota to a possible blizzard in eastern North Dakota.

"Like the Boy Scouts, you've got to be prepared for a North Dakota winter or you're asking for your own problems," said Gerald Miller, 52, who plowed roads on his farm just east of Bismarck on Wednesday.

Miller has spent every winter of his life in North Dakota except for one in 2003 when he served in Iraq with the National Guard. "After Iraq, I promised I'd never complain about the weather in North Dakota again," he said.

Blowing snow was likely to cause problems for holiday travelers even in areas not expected to get significant amounts.

"We have snow on the ground in many areas, and any snow on top of that will combine for the potential to blow around, reduce visibility and drift, and cause problems for people trying to drive," meteorologist Jeff Savadel said.

State officials in both Dakotas issued statements urging people to be cautious.

In South Dakota, truckers carefully navigated the icy roads, with snow expected later in the day.

"It's getting bad," said Bob Grape, who had stopped at a gas station in Sioux Falls on his way north. Grape said he would keep moving through the weather unless it got significantly worse.

"There isn't a load of freight that's important enough to risk your life," he said.

The storm system buried Seattle in snow, causing at least three deaths, and shut

down highways for a time in Idaho, Wyoming and Utah. It also brought high winds on Wednesday to New Mexico and northern Arizona.

The roads were less chaotic in Utah on Wednesday. On Tuesday night, there were 118 traffic collisions and 119 vehicles that slid off the road, police said.

National Weather Service snow totals showed that it wasn't the quantity of snow that made for treacherous driving.

Most cities in Utah received less than 6 inches in the previous 24 hours — an amount residents here are accustomed to. Instead, the danger largely came from high winds blowing snow at night that made it difficult.

"A lot of people heeded the message, stayed off the road and cut down on a lot of problems," Utah Highway Patrol Trooper Todd Johnson said.

"The crash figures — they're not as high as I expected them to be." □

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Aruba Today Wishes Visitors and Locals Alike A Happy Thanksgiving

ORANJESTAD – The entire staff of Aruba Today would like to wish visitors and locals alike a Happy Thanksgiving!

Although, Thanksgiving is not a local holiday we very much support what it represents, and embrace this American tradition.

Throughout the years, Aruba and the United States have had a very tight relationship that developed over a period of more than fifty years of tourism. The American people have become a part of our

community and we have enjoyed having you spend your vacations with us.

It has become our custom to celebrate with our American visitors those holidays which are uniquely special to them, and Thanksgiving is no exception.

Aruba Today Managing Director John Chemaly Jr. says, “Thanksgiving is my favorite of the American traditions, for it has universal relevance in a world driven by material needs. It is time to be spent with family and friends without any need of exchanging

gifts, for it’s time to let each other know how much they are appreciated and to express the things we are thankful for.

These benevolent values behind this celebration are why I choose to adopt this tradition and share in its celebration. I wish everyone a truly Happy Thanksgiving!”

Enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving Day on “One Happy Island Aruba”. □



Joseph and Sherran Hige invite their family to Aruba for Dinner!

“Aruba Joe” celebrates Thanksgiving on Aruba

ORANJESTAD – Ambassadors of Goodwill to Aruba Joseph and Sherran Hige invited their children and grandchildren to their home-away-from-home for Thanksgiving. Retired Michigan school teacher Joseph Hige, known better as “Aruba Joe” and his wife Sherran have been visiting Aruba for more than 28 consecutive years several times a year and this year invited their entire family to join them at the Casa del Mar / Aruba Beach Club Ambassador’s Suite.

The family of 15 are enjoying the week in the pool and on the beach for a family reunion “Aruba Style”. Joining in on the fun are Joseph Jr. and his wife Natalie and their two daughters Alison and Sarah, Christopher and his wife Cheryl with their two daughters Courtney and Rachel, and Wendy and her husband Steve with their children Shelby, Madison, and Ethan.

Congratulations on this special family day from your friends at Aruba Today. □

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



Casa Tua Barcelona uncorked the Beaujolais Nouveau!



ORANJESTAD - With a lovely dinner and a bunch of true wine lovers, Casa Tua Barcelona uncorked the Beaujolais Nouveau 2010.

Like every year on the third Thursday of November this special wine tradition is celebrated due to French standards.

The uncorking of the Beaujolais Nouveau took place at the downtown Casa Tua Barcelona where guests did enjoy a menu, especially selected and partly prepared by David Nataf, co-owner of Casa Tua Restaurants. Starters were a selection of 5 French cheeses or a cold cut platter with assorted sausages and meats. Though the Boeuf Bourignon as a main course was sold out in a whisper, the Coq au Vin did a very good 'job' too! As dessert a Tarte Tatin was served. Ask David to tell you the funny background story about this dessert! Guests were treated to live entertainment by 'Chansonnier Arean de Bie' who brought France into the restaurant with songs of Charles Aznavour and Edit Piaff, to name a few. Do not mark your calendar this event next year at the 3rd Thursday of Casa Tua Barcelona November!



Piaff, to name a few. Do not mark your calendar this event next year at the 3rd Thursday of Casa Tua Barcelona November!



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International athletes enjoy Hadicurari

HADICURARI - Last weekend, Hadicurari Restaurant had the pleasure to host some special guest from Brasil. Luis Antonio and Claudio Almeida, Antonio Carlos (Presidente) Lopes, Amaury and Claurice Froment from Rio de Janeiro enjoyed a delightful dinner with some amazing wines of Argentina.

They came to play beach tennis during the big tournament organized at Moomba Beach. Some friends of Brazil suggested Hadicurari located at the fisherman's pier. They were heard about the fresh fish brought in by the local fisherman and the beautiful sunset view around 6 pm.

They enjoyed tuna tataki, king crab legs and scallops. As entrees they enjoyed the fresh catch of that day namely Mahi Mahi fillet served with a sauce of seafood. This beautiful dinner was been accomplished with a few bottles of Santiago Graffigna. This wine is a blend of Malbec, Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz in short a great combination of the grapes growing in Argentina aged 18 months in oak barrels.

The kind guests reported that the service was perfect, the food delicious and the employees extremely kind. All of the employees of Hadicurari likes to thank this lovely guests from Brazil and look forward to give them a warm welcome the next time when they will visit Aruba. □



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Siena



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ORANJESTAD - Francis and Natalie Ciarcia from Massachusetts and Annelies and Hans Mol from Belgium are the newest Ambassadors of Goodwill for Aruba. Francis and Natalie have been visiting Aruba for 28 years consecutively and Annelies and Hans for 25 years. And both couples love Aruba for the friendly people, weather, local food and love the great attention they receive from the Renaissance personal which is totally

relaxing. The Ciarcia's have been married for 60 years and almost the whole family has visited Aruba with them at one time or another.

Present at this ceremony where Linda Garcia and Frans Tromp Renaissance representatives and Amayra Boehoudt from ATA who hand the plaque. □



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MooMba Beach in the spotlight during Beach Tennis Event



HADICURARI - Popular MooMba Beach, the epitome of relaxing and lounging, was a hive of activity this past weekend, when the Marriott Stellaris Beach Tennis Event was held there. More than 350 participants played on the soft sand in front and behind the restaurant and bar. Eight courts hosted players, who ranged from the world's

best to the top of the other categories. Competition was strong but fair, but one thing was more important: having fun. And that is what MooMba Beach is best at.

The music was great, with Randy Dawson with his Equators live on stage on

Friday and terrific deejays picking up where they left. MooMba's staffers were more than a little busy starting Thursday and continuing until Sunday night, actually early Monday morning.

MooMba Beach and Beach Tennis go hand in hand: the

competition courts are located there and before long a Beach Tennis pro shop will open up. Beach Tennis is very popular on the island: more than 250 local players are members and play at least once a week.

Photos show MooMba Beach at its best. □



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In this file photo taken on Oct. 8, 2008, Jewish men pray at the Western Wall, the holiest site where Jews can pray, in Jerusalem's Old City.

Associated Press

Palestinian official: Western Wall not Jewish

DIAA HADID,
Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — An official Palestinian report claiming that a key Jewish holy site — Jerusalem's Western Wall — has no religious significance to Jews evoked an angry response from Israelis Wednesday, threatening to further inflame tensions over the disputed city.

Decades of archaeology have shown that the Western Wall, the holiest place where Jews can pray, was a retaining wall of the compound where the two biblical Jewish Temples stood 20 centuries ago. The Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, Islam's third-holiest site, is built atop the ruins.

The latest claim about the Temples, echoing positions taken in the past by Palestinian leaders including the late Yasser Arafat, underlined the deeply held, conflicting beliefs that must be untangled if a peace accord is to be reached between Israel and the Palestinians.

Al-Mutawakil Taha, deputy minister of information in the Western-backed Palestinian Authority that rules the West Bank, told The Associated Press on Wednesday that his five-page study published on a Palestinian government website reflected the official Palestinian position.

Part of the report disputes that the Western Wall was a retaining wall of the Temple compound, discarding centuries of documentation and archaeology.

"This wall has never been a part of what is called the Jewish Temple," the report claimed. "However, it was Islamic tolerance which allowed the Jews to stand before it and cry over its loss." The report concludes that since Jews have no claim to the area, it is holy Muslim territory and must be part of Palestinian Jerusalem.

Both sides say the clashing narratives are political. Israel captured east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast war and annexed it. Palestinians claim east Jerusalem, including the Old City, as the capital of their future state.

"Of course it's a political position," Taha said.

Taha said he wrote the report after Israeli officials on Sunday approved a five-year renovation plan for the Western Wall area. Israeli government spokesman Mark Regev described the report as "incitement" by denying the historic Jewish connection to Jerusalem.

Einat Wilf, a legislator from the moderate Israeli Labor Party, a part of the governing coalition, said Palestinians "are stupidly trying again and again to somehow create an alternative reality in which the Jewish people are a strangers in this land."

After Israel seized control of east Jerusalem, it cleared away shacks built next to the Western Wall and built a wide, open plaza there. □

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R



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Friday 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20 / 11:30
Sat 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20 / 11:30
Sun & Hol 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20

R



ON TWO SCREENS

Daniel Radcliffe Emma Watson

Harry Potter AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS PART 1

Mon - Thurs 4:40 / 7:45
Friday 4:40 / 7:45 / 10:50
Sat 1:35 / 4:40 / 7:45 / 10:50
Sun & Hol 1:35 / 4:40 / 7:45

PG-13

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

Mon - Thurs 6:05 / 9:10
Friday 6:05 / 9:10 / 12:05
Sat 3:00 / 6:05 / 9:10 / 12:05
Sun & Hol 3:00 / 6:05 / 9:10



Will Ferrell Brad Pitt

Rachel McAdams Harrison Ford

MORNING GLORY

Mon - Thurs 4:30 / 6:55 / 9:20
Friday 4:30 / 6:55 / 9:20 / 11:45
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MEGAMIND

PG

Mon - Friday 3:30
Sat, Sun & Hol 1:30 / 3:30

Denzel Washington Chris Pine

UNSTOPPABLE

Mon - Thurs 4:45 / 7:05 / 9:25
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PG-13

RED

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PG-13

Mon - Thurs 4:35 / 7:00 / 9:25
Friday 4:35 / 7:00 / 9:25 / 11:40
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Robert Downey Jr. Zach Galifianakis

DUE DATE

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Mon - Thurs 5:15 / 7:25 / 9:40
Friday 5:15 / 7:25 / 9:40 / 11:55
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Sun & Hol 1:00 / 3:05 / 5:15 / 7:25 / 9:40

R

Second blast ends hopes for survival of 29 NZ miners

JOE MORGAN

RAY LILLEY

Associated Press

GREYMOUTH, New Zealand (AP) — Elation over a possible rescue attempt quickly turned to anguish for the families of 29 New Zealand miners missing underground since last week when a second powerful blast ended any hope for another mine miracle.

Wednesday's massive explosion deep inside the mine on New Zealand's South Island came five days after the men were caught underground by a similar blast. Even in the unlikely event that any had survived the first one, police said none could have lived through the second.

"The blast was prolific," said police superintendent Gary Knowles, in charge of the rescue operation, "just as severe as the first blast."

Still, as families gathered for their daily briefing on the rescue operation's progress, they hoped for the best. Before he could finish telling them about the latest blast, some broke into applause when Pike River Coal Chief Executive Peter Whittall said a team had been getting ready to go underground — thinking that a rescue was about to start.

"I had to wait till they stopped clapping to tell them ... that the second explosion occurred," Whittall said.

Some relatives collapsed. Others shouted at the police in anger.

"It is our darkest day," said Tony Kokshoorn, the mayor of the nearby town of Greymouth, who was at the meeting.

Prime Minister John Key declared the disaster a national tragedy.

Both blasts were believed to have been caused by explosive, toxic gases swirling in the tunnels dug up to 1½ miles into a mountain that had also prevented rescuers from entering the mine to search for the missing. Officials said the second blast could not have been prevented and was not a result of any of the rescue activities.

It was one of New Zealand's worst mining disasters.

The country's industry is relatively small compared to other nations and considered generally safe, with 210 deaths in 114 years after the most recent tragedy.

It devastated families who — buoyed by the survival tale of Chile's 33 buried miners — had clung to hope for more than five days that their relatives could emerge alive. Key said flags would fly at half staff on Thursday and Parliament would adjourn its session in respect for the dead men.

The second blast came hours after the first progress in days for the rescue attempt, when a drilling team broke a narrow shaft through to the section of the mine where the missing workers were believed to have been. And two robots crawled their way into the tunnel, giving authorities their first view of the inside of the mine. But officials had become increasingly pessimistic about the chances of pulling the men alive from the mine. Nothing had been heard from them since the initial blast.

Officials said investigations still to come would confirm the exact cause of Wednesday's explosion.

Whittall said rescue teams were not doing anything that could have set it off, and conditions inside the mine were such it could have happened at any time.

"It was a natural eventuation," he said, "it could have happened on the second day, it could have happened on the third day."

Laurie Drew, father of 21-year-old miner Zen, said rescuers should have gone into the mine on Friday. He believes the first explosion would have burned off most of the dangerous gases.

"They had their window of opportunity that Friday night, and now the truth can't come out because no one alive will be able to come out and tell the truth about what went on down there," Drew said. "The only thing that's going to make matters worse is if we find ... out that people were alive after that first blast."

Knowles said at all times after the initial blast, entering the

mine was simply too risky because of high gas levels and evidence of a smoldering coal fire underground that could have been the ignition source. Energy Minister Gerry Brownlee said a range of official inquiries would probe the cause of the disaster and whether it could have been prevented.

Whittall said no decision had been made yet on whether the mine would be sealed or what the next step would be.

"We can't still go into an unsafe mine. It's just as unsafe now as it was two hours ago, the gas will still be coming out of the coal, there's still an ignition source, there's no doubt burning methane from that explosion," he told reporters. "But we want our boys back and we want to get them out."



New Zealand's Prime Minister John Key, left, accompanied by the British High Commissioner Vicki Treadell are met by the Minister of Mines Gerry Brownlee upon Key's arrival to meet the families of the 29 miners presumed dead in the Pike River Mine explosion, in Greymouth, New Zealand, Thursday, Nov. 25, 2010.

Associated Press

New Zealand's mines have been safe historically. The worst disaster was in 1896, when 65 died in a gas explosion at a mine on the same coal seam as the latest tragedy. The most recent was in 1967, when an explosion killed 19 miners in a mine near the Pike River site. □

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Thanksgiving 2010

Buffet Menu 2010

Salads

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Mexico sending more troops to zone next to Texas

E. EDUARDO CASTILLO

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico will send more troops and federal police to fight drug violence that has spiraled out of control this year in northeastern Mexico along the U.S. border, the federal government said Wednesday.

The goal of “Coordinated Northeast Operation” is to reinforce government authority in the two states most heavily affected by fighting set off earlier this year by a split between the Gulf and Zetas drug gangs, federal police spokesman Alejandro Poire said.

The new effort also will to keep the cartels from regrouping after the takedown of key leaders, he said.

Cartel violence has escalated to warfare in parts of Tamaulipas state across the border from Texas and the industrial city of Monterrey in Nuevo Leon state.

Earlier Wednesday, federal police said they captured the new leader of a drug gang formerly led by jailed U.S.-born suspect Edgar “La Barbie” Valdez Villarreal, in a blow to a cartel fighting to control the region south of Mexico City to the Pacific resort of Acapulco.

Carlos Montemayor was arrested in Mexico City on Tuesday with the help of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and with information obtained after Valdez’s arrest on Aug. 30, said Ramon Pequeno, the federal police anti-narcotics chief.

Montemayor, whose daughter is married to Valdez, took over his faction the splintered Beltran Leyva cartel after “La Barbie” was caught, Pequeno said. □



A protester smashes the windscreen of a stranded police vehicle, as thousands of students protest against a rise in university tuition fees in Whitehall, London, Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2010.

Associated Press

British students protest tuition fee hikes

BENJAMIN TIMMINS

GILLIAN SMITH

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Thousands of British students protested Wednesday against government plans to triple university tuition fees, and there were sporadic scuffles with police, two weeks after a similar demonstration sparked a small riot.

College and university students across the country held marches and sit-ins to oppose the decision to increase university fees to 9,000 pounds (\$14,000) a year, a key plank in the government’s deficit-cutting austerity measures.

In central London, the university students and younger pupils in school uniforms marched from Trafalgar Square toward the Houses of Parliament, chanting “no ifs, no buts, no education cuts.”

The Metropolitan Police said two officers were injured in London, including one with a broken arm. Thirty-two protesters were arrested for charges including violent disorder and criminal damage.

Some attacked a parked police van, smashing the windows and scrawling graffiti. Others destroyed phone boxes and set fire to a ticket machine at a bus stop.

“Education is not a rich kid’s game,” said Tash Holway, 19, a student. “If this keep up, the entire industry will change. It won’t be about talent, but only about who can pay.” Lines of police guarded the headquarters near Parliament of junior government partner, the Liberal Democrats. The Lib Dems have drawn particular anger because the party campaigned on a promise to abolish tuition fees, then abandoned it once in power.

The party leader, Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg, said Wednesday “I massively regret finding myself in (the) situation” of

not being able to keep this promise.

Asked how he felt about seeing students burn him in effigy, Clegg told BBC radio: “I’m developing a thick skin.”

There was a heavy police presence, with hundreds of uniformed officers on duty. Students complained about confrontational tactics.

“At first the march was peaceful and then the police were called in and started kettling people and not letting anyone out,” said Mara Payne, 25, of south London.

Kaya Wiley, 17, said government is breaking its promises.

“They’re wasting our money and we’re not going to get anywhere,” she said. “I don’t want work at (supermarket) Tesco. I want to be able to go to university. I don’t think the violence is effective and I’m afraid the government might just brush it off.”

There were demonstrations several thousand strong in university towns and cities across the country, including Bristol, Liverpool, Sheffield and Leeds.

In Cambridge, hundreds of students scaled the fence outside Senate House, the building used for graduation ceremonies, and marched into the grounds of the 700-year-old King’s College shouting and waving placards. Two people were arrested for obstructing police.

An 18-year-old British student pleaded guilty Wednesday to throwing a fire extinguisher off the roof of the high-rise building during the protest in London two weeks ago. It narrowly missed police officers standing below.

Edward Woollard admitted one count of violent disorder. His lawyer said Woollard was “very sorry for his actions.”

District Judge Nicholas Evans said Woollard would be sentenced later. He faces a maximum of five years in prison. □



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Cairo police clash with Christian rioters, 1 dead



Egyptian Christians march as they raise a cross during a riot after authorities halted construction on a church claiming the local Christian community had violated a building permit in Cairo, Egypt, Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2010.

MAGGIE MICHAEL

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Hundreds of Christians smashed cars and windows and tried to assault a municipal building in Cairo Wednesday after police violently stopped the construction of a church, leaving one person dead and underscoring serious Egypt's sectarian tensions.

Police clashed with Christians first at the church construction site in the early hours of the morning and then several hours later when a mob of hundreds assaulted the local governor's office in retaliation.

The slain Christian was shot in the thigh and died after arriving at a nearby hospital, according to the official Middle East News Agency, which also said 68 people were injured in the clashes and 133 were arrested. Two priests were summoned by the general prosecutor for interrogation.

Coptic Christians make up about 10 percent of Egypt's population of 80 million. They complain frequently of discrimination, though they generally live in peace with the Muslim majority with occasional flare-ups of tension and violence, especially over limits on church building.

The government said construction had been ordered halted in this case because the building was not licensed to become a house of worship. "They had previously been

ordered to cease construction due to violations of building safety code standards, and because they were attempting to illegally transform the building into a church for the conduct of religious services," said a statement.

A Coptic priest involved in the construction in the Omraniya neighborhood of Giza, Cairo's twin city, said that 5,000 security forces cordoned off the site and blocking the arrival of construction materials at 3:00 am, while workers were on the roof.

"The security forces started the whole thing," Mina Zarif, the priest of the nearby church of Mar Mena said. "The workers became fed up and started throwing stones."

The government said protesters were blocking a major highway and had to be cleared.

"Repeated police requests to cease the violence were ignored by the demonstrators, at which point security officials had no choice but to control and disperse the gathering through the use of tear gas," a statement said. A few hours later, some 700 Christians, many bearing makeshift crosses, descended on the headquarters of the Giza governor where they were met by riot police armed with tear gas and rubber bullets.

Governor Gen. Sayyed Abdel Aziz told the official news agency that rioters had tried and failed to storm the building. After the demonstrations had

been dispersed, 15 police trucks still surrounded the area of the church and there was heavy security throughout the neighborhood.

Zarif, one of the construction supervisors, admitted that the four story building was actually licensed as a community center in 2009 rather than a house of worship.

"What is the problem in bypassing an already unjust and flawed law? The church does that all the time, turning service buildings into churches," the unapologetic priest said.

The Coptic community says authorities in Egypt are reluctant to approve permits to build churches, which they say they need to accommodate growing numbers of worshippers.

One way to evade the rules is to obtain permits for Christian service centers, which they then turn to churches.

Medhat Kalada, head of the Geneva-based United Copts organization, said that the government has a "double-standard" with complicated procedures needed for the construction of the churches in comparison to the relative ease in building mosques.

"The government is discriminating against Christians when it comes to building churches," he said. The government insists Christians enjoy the same rights as Muslims.

Human rights groups say attacks on Copts are on the rise,

underscoring the government's failure to address chronic sectarian strains in a society where religious radicalism is gaining ground.

Last week, Muslims in the southern Egyptian province of Qena set fire to 10 houses belonging to Christians following rumors a Copt had an affair with a Muslim girl.

Last year, also in Qena, a Coptic man was accused of kidnapping and raping a 12-year-old Muslim girl. The alleged assault led to widespread protests by the Muslim community and increased tensions between the two religious groups, which culminated in the murder of six Copts and one Muslim security guard at a church on Jan. 6. □

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Britain's queen returns to Emirates on state visit



KAMRAN JEBREILI

Associated Press

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Britain's Queen Elizabeth II toured one of the world's largest mosques Wednesday in her first state visit in more than 30 years to the United Arab Emirates, a country with deep British ties. The 84-year-old monarch wore a white hat covered by a gold scarf at Abu Dhabi's Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, part of a massive marble complex that contains the tomb of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the first president of the UAE after it gained statehood following more than 100 years as a British protectorate. The queen, accompanied by her husband Prince Philip and Emirati leaders, paused for a moment outside the mosque to remove her shoes. Her outfit for the visit also included white gloves and an ankle-length white dress and coat. She made no comments as journalists looked on.

Her delegation also includes British Foreign Secretary William Hague — underscoring the region's strategic significance.

Britain's historical links to the area stretch back

Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, left, and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan arrive at the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque during the queen's official visit to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Wednesday Nov. 24, 2010.

Associated Press

to the 19th century. The UAE became a nation in 1971 after more than a century under British protection as part of a truce to protect ships sailing the important trade routes to India.

Britain also played a key role in building the UAE military and other institutions.

The queen last visited the UAE in 1979 before the country underwent a stunning economic expansion that has drawn workers and companies from around the world, including more than 100,000 Britons and 4,000 British businesses.

She plans to travel Thursday to neighboring Oman.

In Abu Dhabi, the British foreign secretary is expected to sign a number of pacts including a nuclear cooperation accord with Emirati leaders. The UAE's first nuclear reactors are being built by a South Korean consortium with the first phase expected to begin operations in 2017.

In an apparent jab at Iran's nuclear standoff with the West, Hague praised the UAE's nuclear program is "based on transparency and international cooperation."

"It is a model that we would encourage other states in the Middle East to emulate," he wrote in the Dubai-based Gulf News on Wednesday.

The queen's schedule in the UAE includes formally launching a project for a new National Museum, which is being developed by partners including the British Museum. □

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood! Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"

ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad.

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Serbia's Novak Djokovic has his eye checked during a round robin singles tennis match against Spain's Rafael Nadal at the ATP World Tour Finals at the O2 Arena in London, Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2010.

Associated Press

Nadal beats Djokovic, Berdych beats Roddick


CHRIS LEHOURITES

AP Sports Writer

LONDON (AP) — With Novak Djokovic struggling to keep his contact lenses in place, Rafael Nadal went about his business as usual Wednesday and improved his record to 2-0 at the ATP World Tour Finals with a 7-5, 6-2 win over the third-ranked Serb. Despite the win, none of the eight players in the round-robin tournament have been eliminated or advanced after two matches each. But both the top-ranked Nadal and No. 2 Roger Federer need only to win one set in their final matches at the season-ending tournament to reach the semifinals.

"I know I have to win a set on Friday, and that's the main (goal)," said Nadal, who won the French Open, Wimbledon and the U.S. Open this year and next faces Tomas Berdych.

Continued on Page B4



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BULL-LEAPING

Lakers hold off Bulls for 5th straight win

Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant, right, goes up for a shot against Chicago Bulls' Ronnie Brewer, left, and Joakim Noah during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles, Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2010.

Associated Press

NBA Roundup

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A year after scandal, Woods tries to move on

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Boise State president responds to Ohio State slam



This Jan. 28, 2010, file photo shows Ohio State president E. Gordon Gee during an interview, in Columbus, Ohio. Gee says TCU and Boise State don't deserve to be in the BCS title game even if they are undefeated.

By RUSTY MILLER

AP College Football Writer
COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Boise State's president said his counterpart at Ohio State's claim that Big Ten and Southeastern Conference teams play a "murderer's row" schedule

“is the greatest exaggeration I think we’ve heard this year in college football.”

In an interview with The Associated Press on Wednesday, Bob Kustra angrily responded to Ohio State President Gordon Gee's statement that TCU

and Boise State don't deserve to be in the Bowl Championship Series title game even if they run the table.

Gee said of the power conferences' schedules: "We do not play the Little Sisters of the Poor."

Kustra had Ohio State's last two schedules in front of him—the Buckeyes have played Southern California and Miami, in addition to several mid-majors and directional schools—and said, "If they're not playing the Little Sisters of the Poor, they're playing the Little Brothers."

He added: "Maybe President Gee doesn't go to the games of the teams that are not in his Big Ten, but he's playing some easy marks."

TCU athletic director Chris Del Conte also stepped into the fray, defending the Horned Frogs' unblemished record.

"We only worry about our house and what we do at TCU," he said. "I'll put our record up against anybody."

Kustra said he had to speak up after hearing Gee's comments.

"I don't mind somebody stating that they don't think we ought to be in the national championship, but to do it with such erroneous information as Gordon Gee

has used, gets under the skin of all of us who thought university presidents were supposed to be standing for fairness, equity and truth in how we portray our universities,” Kustra said. “And he’s doing a very poor job of that at the moment.”

The controversy began when Gee defended the BCS and the current bowl system earlier in the day in an interview with The AP.

“Well, I don’t know enough about the Xs and Os of college football,” said Gee, formerly the president at West Virginia, Colorado, Brown and Vanderbilt. “I do know, having been both a Southeastern Conference president and a Big Ten president, that it’s like murderer’s row every week for these schools.”

Referring to TCU and Boise State, he added, “I think until a university runs through that gantlet that there’s some reason to believe that they not be the best teams to (be) in the big ballgame.”

That left both TCU and Boise State angry.

"We go through the gantlet every single day," Del Conte said.

Kustra said he it was hypocritical of Ohio State and all of the major BCS conferences to demean teams like Boise State.

He said most of those conferences refuse to schedule his school.

"It's easy for the presidents to talk, but ask the ADs when's the last time that they seriously entertained taking requests or inviting Boise State to (play them)," Kustra said. "If you're Boise State or TCU, they're going to want to steer way clear of you."

He said he had phone records that would prove that Boise State had tried to schedule home-and-home games with Top 25 teams from the BCS conferences, but that they would not play the Broncos anywhere but at their home stadium.

Gee, long a proponent of the BCS and the bowl system,

said the current format to decide a national champion is superior to other options.

"If you put a gun to my head and said, 'What are you going to do about a playoff system (if) the BCS system as it now exists goes away?' I would vote immediately to go back to the bowl system," he said.

Gee called a playoff system “a slippery slope to professionalism.”

Kustra said most teams from the power conferences follow a simple blueprint when scheduling these days.

"The formula these days for BCS teams is get seven or eight home games, play one non-conference game against a team from another BCS league, schedule three or four patsies and try not to leave the state if you can help it," he said.

He also said that the SEC's Florida Gators have not left the state to play a non-conference, regular-season opponent since 1991.

Gee said that it was some of the quirkiest moments in the BCS which made it endearing. He cited 2007 when Ohio State lost its final home game of the season to drop to eighth in the BCS rankings, then benefited from a long series of upsets to make it into the national championship game, where they lost to LSU 38-24.

"You know, it's a mystery," Gee said. "We were No. 1 then No. 11 then No. 7 and we ended up playing for the national championship. I think I kind of like that mixed-up mystery."

TCU has earned an opportunity to at least be considered to play in the national championship game, Del Conte said.

"We have a wonderful coach, a great football program and at this point in time, we're undefeated heading in the right direction," he said. "Look at our overall body of work the last 10 years—it stacks up against anybody."

AP Sports Writer Stephen Hawkins in Fort Worth, Texas, contributed. □



Coach K reaches another milestone with No. 1 Duke

By JIM O'CONNELL

AP Basketball Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Mike Krzyzewski's latest milestone win came with an impressive dismantling of one of the best teams in the country.

Top-ranked Duke's 82-68 victory over No. 4 Kansas State on Tuesday night in the championship game of the O'Reilly Auto Parts CBE Classic was Coach K's 800th win at Duke. As usual, he deflected the attention from himself to the school that he has worked at since 1981 and the many players who have scored those points and defended all those opponents.

"It means I'm at a great school," said Krzyzewski, who became the fifth coach to win 800 games at one school. "It has afforded me the chance to recruit great kids. I feel really comfortable coaching at a high caliber and you're much better able to form a team with kids with good character. We try to develop the good character they bring us. Duke allows us to recruit nationally and for me being there for 31 years. ... I'm a lucky guy to be there."

He's been lucky enough to win 873 games overall including his stint at West Point, his alma mater where he played under Bob Knight, the all-time wins leader at 902. Krzyzewski's win total is three behind Adolph Rupp for third place on the career list.

This was also another November win for Duke. The Blue Devils have won 27 straight games in the 11th month of the year and under Krzyzewski they are 107-10 in November.

This was the fourth straight year Duke won an in-season tournament and the Blue Devils won the one that comes after the season last April, their fourth national title under Krzyzewski.

"Our guys played great. We beat an outstanding team in a great environment," Krzyzewski said. "Our defense was just really good. I thought we never let up. We won a big-time game."

Freshman guard Kyrie Irving and senior guard Nolan Smith both scored 17 points and combined on an outstanding defensive job on preseason All-America Jacob Pullen.

"They were terrific," Krzyzewski said of his starting backcourt, "but I can say that about every single one of our players tonight. We have to be really good or else we would not beat a really good team. Our guards combined for 34 points and controlled the ball and played good defense, so we had a good chance to win with that production."

Duke (5-0) made sure the sellout crowd of 18,696 — most wearing something purple to support the Wildcats — was never a factor, taking the lead for good 7 1/2 minutes into the game and then going on to lead by 17 points midway through the second half on the way to its 15th straight win.

Five games into his college career, Irving gave quite a performance in a neutral-site game that

certainly wasn't.

"I definitely saw a lot of purple shirts in the crowd, so it felt like an away game," Irving said of a game played in the Sprint Center, about two hours from the Kansas State campus. "That's how we approached it. We had to block them out and just play our game."

Irving wouldn't take the credit for holding Pullen, who led Kansas State's run to the Elite Eight last season and made wearing a beard at a college basketball game fashionable, to four points on 1-for-12 shooting, including 1 of 8 from 3-point range.

"First of all it wasn't a single job on my part. It was a team effort," Irving said. "When we were going through our walkthrough we had to really lock in on him. We had an awareness on him the whole entire game. I think we did a great job on the defensive end, which gave us offensive momentum."

Pullen sounded like a senior veteran.

"It's early in the season. The ball wasn't going in on shots I normally take," said Pullen, who entered the game averaging 16.5 points on 46 percent shooting, 41 percent behind the 3-point line. "They have a really good team. I probably won't see a lot of defenses like that all year. I still got a lot of looks that I like, a lot of looks that usually go in."

Kyle Singler and Andre Dawkins both had 11 points for Duke, while Mason Plumlee added 10.

Curtis Kelly led the Wildcats (4-1) with 19 points.

"Our guys battled and fought hard," Kansas State coach Frank Martin said. "We lined up and played a heck of a basketball team today. We are a very young team and we will use this as a great learning experience. ... It did not work out today, but that is what happened and we'll be better next time."

Kansas State finished 27 for 56 from the field (46.8 percent), although the Wildcats made just three of 17 3-point attempts. They finished with 21 turnovers that Duke turned into 25 points.

"You cannot turn it over 21 times and be 11 of 23 from the foul line and have any chance at beating the No. 1 team in the country," Martin said. "Duke does a great job defensively. We are not the only team in the country that they have done that to before."

Duke shot 48.1 percent overall (26 for 54), but the Blue Devils made half of their 12 3-point attempts.

"We didn't take as many 3s as we usually do," Krzyzewski said. "But our guards did such a great job of driving to score as well as create shots for others."

Duke's next three games are at Oregon on Saturday, home for No. 2 Michigan State on Dec. 1, and versus Butler, the team it beat in last season's national championship game, at the Meadowlands on Dec. 4. □



Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski talks to his players during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game against Marquette in the semifinal round of the CBE Classic Tournament Monday, Nov. 22, 2010 in Kansas City, Mo.

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Andy Roddick of the US, reacts after missing a point as he plays Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic during a men's singles round robin match at the ATP World Tour Finals tennis tournament at the O2 Arena, in London, Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2010.

NADAL

Continued from Page B1

Djokovic, who also lost to Nadal in the U.S. Open final, struggled to keep his eye on the ball Wednesday at the O2 Arena.

"I really feel sick talking about it, to be honest, because it's just incredible that this happened to me. I mean, it never happened to me in the life," Djokovic said. "My right eye got irritated, and from the 5-all I could not play. I could not see a ball, especially the return.

It was just terrible."

Djokovic called for a time out early in the eighth game because of a problem with his contact lenses. After Nadal held at love to 4-4, Djokovic left the court for a bathroom break to fix the problem, but it appeared to continue to bother him.

A few games after the break, shortly after Nadal broke Djokovic and then held to win the first set, the Serb called for a trainer.

With medical personnel looking into both eyes, Djokovic looked frustrated as he sat in his changeover chair. He slammed a bottle of water on the court, and then slapped his hand twice into the arm rest.

"I don't want to find any excuses for my loss, but the fact of the matter is that I just could not play," Djokovic said. "I will try to see a doctor and see if there is something more serious going on and in two days hopefully I can be ready. "It's just playing with one eye is not enough, especially if you have Nadal across the net."

When he came back on court, Nadal broke to open

the second set, and then again in the third game to eventually take a 4-0 lead.

"For sure I'm very sorry for him, what happened after the 11 first games, in the eye or something like that," Nadal said. "(It) seemed like something happened, (went) inside of his eye. After, he didn't see the ball very well."

Nadal, who lost all three of his matches at the O2 last year, was first to earn a break in the first set to take a 3-2 lead, but Djokovic quickly got back on serve by breaking back in the next game.

Djokovic had three more break points in the final game of the first set, but each time he failed to keep the ball in play.

Both finished the match with 17 winners, but Djokovic had 31 unforced

errors to Nadal's 15.

"I know I'm still in the tournament. I have big chances to qualify," Djokovic said. "It's just that these things make me very angry."

Berdych defeated Andy Roddick 7-5, 6-3 in the early Group A match, winning his first match in his debut at the ATP finals and leaving Roddick 0-2.

The combined results mean that all four players are still in the hunt for a spot in the semifinals. The same is true in Group B, which includes Federer, Andy Murray, Robin Soderling and David Ferrer.

Berdych converted his first break point in the 11th game of the first set, only minutes after saving two set points from Roddick. It was the sixth-ranked Czech's first win over the eighth-ranked Roddick in four matches this year.

"I just went there, serve twice pretty good, turn the game," Berdych said of the saved set points. "The last pickup volley was (a) very tough one, and I made it. And then the next game (I) just made a quick break, and that was the key of the game."

In the second set, Roddick was annoyed by the advertising lights at the feet of the line judges, which flashed red sometimes while play was going on. Shortly after complaining to the chair umpire, Roddick was broken for the second time, giving Berdych a 3-2 lead.

Roddick smashed a ball high into the rafters in anger, and then broke his

racket on his foot, drawing a code violation from the chair umpire.

"The neons in the back weren't quite to the settled position. They were still advertising fun stuff," Roddick said. "When you're trying to track a ball, it's kind of neon lights and stuff. Then Tomas noticed it. A couple of them just went out before we played a point."

The match finished with the lights off.

Berdych, who is now 1-1, held serve twice after the incident and then broke Roddick again in the final game. He'll next face Nadal.

"Playing Rafa, it's always great experience, even if you play on clay, grass, indoor, outdoor, whatever," said Berdych, who lost to Nadal in this year's Wimbledon final.

"He played a really tough match (in) the first one (against Roddick). He was able to come back, won the match. Now he's waiting for another tough, really tough opponent."

On Tuesday, Federer stretched his record to 2-0 by easily beating Murray 6-4, 6-2, while Soderling defeated Ferrer 7-5, 7-5.

In doubles, Daniel Nestor of Canada and Nenad Zimonjic of Serbia qualified for the semifinals by beating Mahesh Bhupathi of India and Max Mirnyi of Belarus 7-6 (5), 7-6 (1). In the early Group B match, Wesley Moodie of South Africa and Dick Norman of Belgium beat Lukasz Kubot of Poland and Oliver Marach of Austria 6-1, 6-3. □

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NBA Roundup

Lakers surge past Bulls 98-91

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Los Angeles Lakers surged ahead in the fourth quarter to record a 98-91 win over the Chicago Bulls on Tuesday, stretching their NBA winning trot to five games.

Shannon Brown scored 21 points and Kobe Bryant added 20 for the Lakers, who trailed early in the fourth quarter before Derrick Rose finally slowed down.

Rose scored 30 points, but managed just three for the Bulls in the final period, all on free throws.

Los Angeles reserves Brown and Steve Blake led a 17-2 run that included 10 straight points, while the Bulls went more than 5½ minutes between field goals late, and suffered their seventh straight loss to the Lakers.

Mavericks 88, Pistons 84

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki had a season-high 42 points with 12 rebounds, scoring almost half Dallas' points in the win over Detroit.

The Mavericks were lethargic for much of the night and trailed by as many as 12 points in the third quarter. But they picked up the energy level late to secure their fifth straight win over the Pistons.

Nowitzki scored nine straight, capped by an 18-footer with 5:29 remaining for a 75-70 lead.

Jason Terry added 16 points for Dallas.

Tayshaun Prince scored a season-high 19 points and Rodney Stuckey also had 19 for the Pistons.

Nets 107, Hawks 101, OT
In Newark, New Jersey, Brook Lopez scored a

season-high 32 points as New Jersey beat Atlanta in overtime and snapped a three-game losing skid.

Devin Harris added 23 of his 27 points in the second half for the Nets, who were playing their first home game in 10 days.

Jamal Crawford had 21 points for the Hawks, who have lost three straight.

Knicks 110, Bobcats 107

In New York, the hosts won their fourth straight game, beating Charlotte.

Toney Douglas scored 22 points, and Amare Stoudemire added 17 for the Knicks, who won the final three games on their road trip and kept rolling right through most of this one. They blew nearly all of a 16-point lead before holding on for their longest winning streak this season.

Raymond Felton made the clinching free throws against his former team as New York put six players in double figures.

D.J. Augustin, Felton's replacement, scored 24 points for the Bobcats.

Pacers 100, Cavaliers 89

In Indianapolis, Danny Granger scored 24 points to lead Indiana over Cleveland. Granger got off to a slow start but scored 10 in the second quarter as Indiana expanded an eight-point lead into a 62-37 margin at halftime.

Ramon Sessions had 15 points, six rebounds and five assists for Cleveland, which lost its third consecutive game.

Wizards 116, 76ers 114, OT
In Washington, Nick Young hit an open 3-pointer with 7.6 seconds left in overtime

Los Angeles Lakers point guard Shannon Brown, right, shoots as he is defended by Chicago Bulls shooting guard Ronnie Brewer during the second half of their NBA basketball game in Los Angeles, Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2010. The Lakers won 98-91.

Associated Press

as Washington edged Philadelphia.

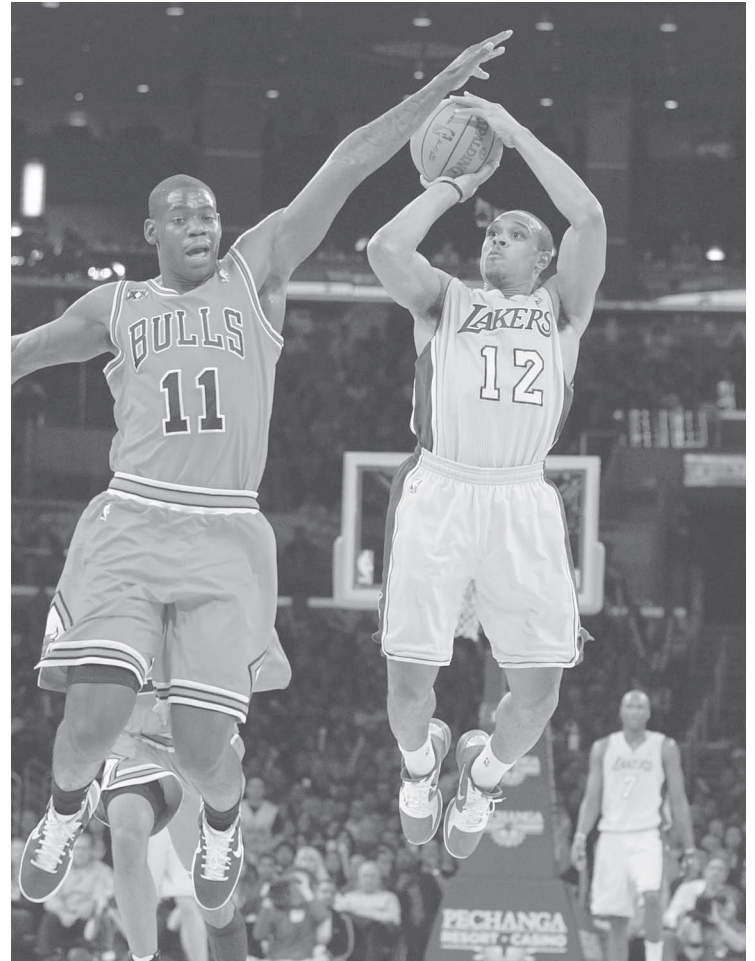
Young finished with 19 points, but his winning shot wouldn't have been possible if Jrue Holiday hadn't fouled John Wall some 40 feet from the basket with 3.5 seconds left in regulation and the 76ers leading by three. Wall threw up the ball and got a shooting foul out of it, then made all three free throws to tie it at 106.

It was the second time in November that the Wizards beat the 76ers after taking the game to overtime by scoring three incredible points just before the buzzer. Cartier Martin's desperation 3-pointer with 0.3 seconds left sent the game to the extra period on Nov. 2.

Wall, who returned after missing four games with a sprained left foot, scored all of his 25 points after halftime.

Andre Iguodala, back from an Achilles' tendon injury, had 23 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists in 50 minutes for the 76ers.

In other NBA games it was Indiana 100, Cleveland 89; New Jersey 107, Atlanta 101, OT; Washington 116, Philadelphia 114, OT; New York 110, Charlotte 107; Dallas 88, Detroit 84; and L.A. Lakers 98, Chicago 91. □



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Bryzgalov makes 23 saves, Coyotes shut out Oilers



Phoenix Coyotes right winger Lee Stempniak, left, is congratulated by Wojtek Wolski, right, of Poland, after Stempniak scored against the Edmonton Oilers in the second period of an NHL hockey game Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2010, in Glendale, Ariz. Stempniak scored two goals as the Coyotes won 5-0.

Associated Press

GLENDAL, Ariz. — Ilya Bryzgalov made 23 saves for his 17th career NHL shutout and Martin Hanzal and Lee Stempniak each scored twice to help the Phoenix Coyotes beat the Edmonton Oilers 5-0 on Tuesday night for their seventh consecutive win. Stempniak added an assist, Wojtek Wolski had a goal and an assist, and David Schlemko and Eric Belanger had a pair of assists for the Coyotes, who moved into first place in the Pacific Division. Phoenix earned the victory despite the absence of defensemen Ed Jovanovski and Adrian Aucoin. Aucoin missed his second game because of a lower-body injury, and Jovanovski was sidelined by the flu. Bryzgalov was rarely tested en route to his first shutout since March 13 at Carolina. He faced only four shots in the first period, and Edmonton generated few scoring chances throughout the game. Hanzal gave Phoenix a 1-0 lead 48 seconds in.

He scored into the open right side of the net when goalie Devan Dubnyk overplayed Ray Whitney at the top left corner of the crease. Dubnyk left the net to prevent Whitney from shooting, but Whitney passed the puck to Hanzal, who was alone on the right doorstep. Wolski made it 2-0 two minutes into the second period. He gained control of the puck along the right wing boards and skated toward the crease before beating Dubnyk with a quick wrist shot. Stempniak tucked a rebound of his own shot just inside the left post at 17:07 to put the Coyotes ahead 3-0. Hanzal got his second with 6:15 to go in the game, taking a long outlet pass from Derek Morris just outside the Oilers zone, skating to the right circle and wristing a shot over Dubnyk's right shoulder. Stempniak capped the scoring with 51 seconds remaining. □



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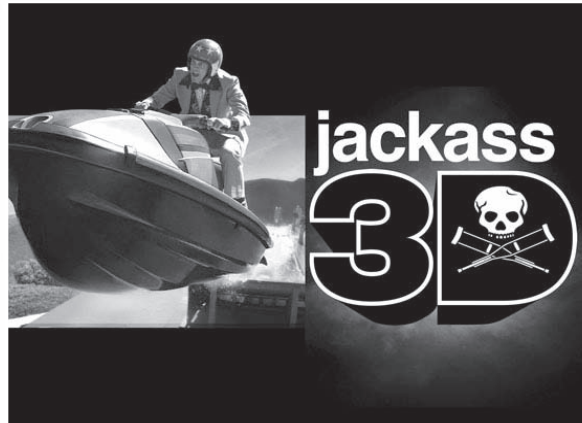
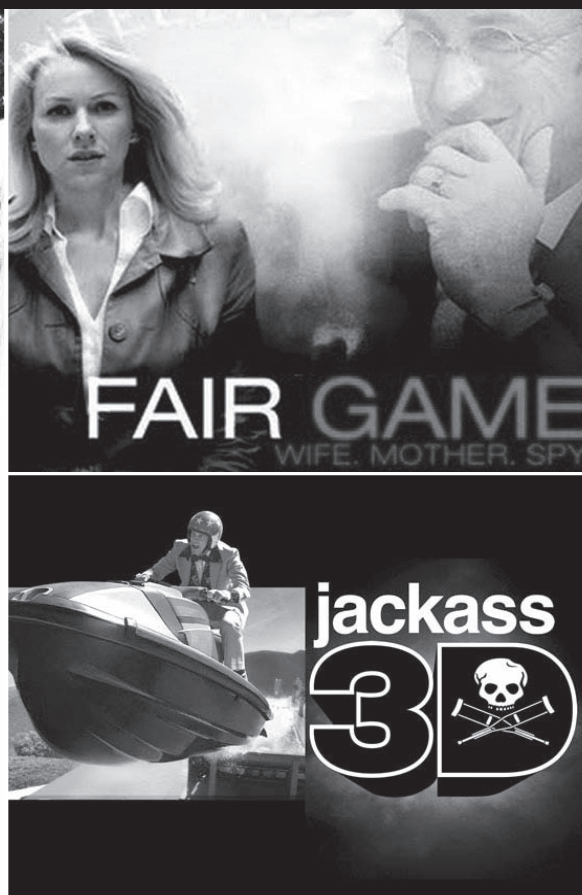
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Titans Vince Young apologizes to Fisher via text

By TERESA M. WALKER

AP Sports Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Jeff Fisher says quarterback Vince Young has apologized to him via text message, though probably not the best move since the Tennessee coach says talking face-to-face is a “man thing.”

Fisher said Wednesday after practice that reporters could draw their own conclusion on whether he would have preferred an apology from Young in person. The coach wouldn't discuss what the text said except that Young apologized via a text sent Tuesday.

But the coach also didn't text his quarterback in response.

“I'm not a real big text guy,” Fisher said. “I'm not really into this new age stuff. I don't twit or tweet. But I think face-to-face is a man thing, OK?”

The quarterback had a heated exchange with Fisher in the locker room after Sunday's overtime loss to Washington, and Fisher told Young not to attend a team meeting Monday. Tennessee placed Young on injured reserve

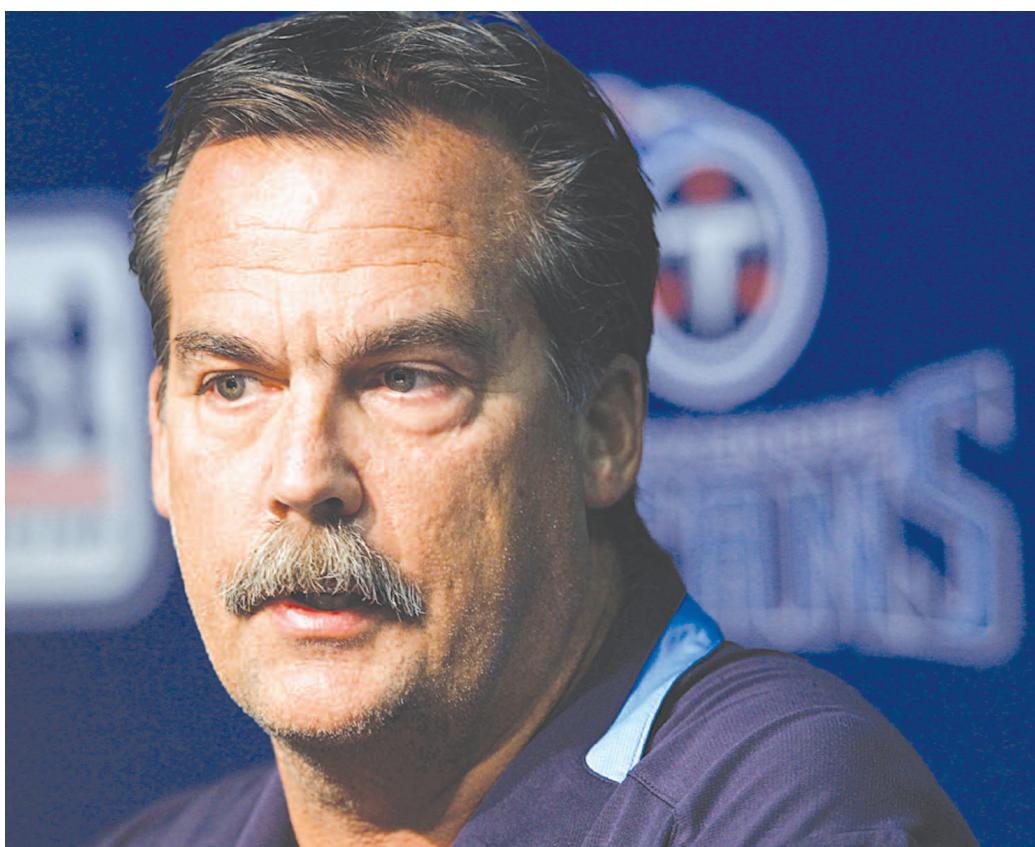
Tuesday because he needs season-ending surgery on his right thumb. Fisher said he will meet with Young at some point. Asked if hearing from his quarterback by text does some good to a relationship that has seemed beyond repair, Fisher said he didn't think so.

“Someone could've grabbed his phone and texted,” Fisher said.

Fisher told Houston reporters on a conference call earlier Wednesday that Young is welcome to show up at practices if he wants. Fisher said he's also busy focusing on his Titans (5-5) visiting the Houston Texans (4-6) on Sunday with his team just a game out of first in the AFC South.

Titans safety Michael Griffin said a lot of what's happened has been blown out of proportion. A college teammate of Young's at Texas, Griffin said he hadn't talked to Young but thinks the quarterback possibly went home. Young did tweet “Houston” on Tuesday.

Griffin does think Young having surgery on his right thumb and being on injured reserve probably is best for both the quarterback and



Tennessee Titans head coach Jeff Fisher answers questions at a news conference on Monday, Nov. 22, 2010, in Nashville, Tenn.

Fisher. Griffin believes the relationship between the men can be fixed because what happened between them was emotional, not physical. “That's the best thing that

Associated Press
probably could've happened right now. Just need some time to cool off between the both of them and focus on this team,” Griffin said. □



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A year after scandal, Woods tries to move on

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — The dark sedan backed into a spot next to the clubhouse at the Australian Masters, trunk open, waiting to whisk Tiger Woods to the airport. Lingering behind the car was a friend who was still wrestling with divided loyalties — to Woods and his former wife.

They approached each other, awkwardly at first, then shared a quick embrace and quiet words.

Woods believes he finally is ready to move on after a self-destructive year that cost him his marriage, his mystique, millions in endorsements and, lastly, his No. 1 ranking.

What remains are relationships to repair, along with his golf game.

Still to come is Thanksgiving. “It’s going to be great,” Woods said in an interview with The Associated Press. “I’m going to be with my family. My mom is going to be there. We’re going to have a great Thanksgiving. We’ve turned the corner, turned the page, and it’s time to move forward.” He was not playing dumb.

Woods realizes the public might forever connect him and Thanksgiving with perhaps one of the most shocking downfalls in sports.

It started with the National Enquirer story of an affair with a nightclub hostess. Then came the still mysterious, middle-of-the-night accident Nov. 27 when he drove his car over a fire hydrant and crashed into a tree beyond his driveway. In the street, the back windows of the Cadillac Escalade were bashed out with a golf club.

On the 911 call was the chilling voice of his mother as she cried out, “What happened?” One year later, that remains a relevant question.

No one really knew much about Woods except that he dominated golf like no one had before. Within weeks, everyone knew too much.

He was caught in a stunning web of infidelity, each indiscretion played out in public through voicemails, celebrity magazines, TV talk



Tiger Woods from the United States celebrates after holing a bunker shot for a birdie during the final round of the Australian Masters at Victoria Golf Club in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Nov. 14, 2010. Defending champion Woods made two eagles over the last four holes for a 6-under 65 to finish fourth.

Associated Press

shows and even “sexting” on a porn star’s website. He became a regular in the National Enquirer. He was on front pages everywhere, long after the major championship season was over.

Woods had spent 14 years carefully cultivating an impeccable image that brought him worldwide fame. Just like that, he went from being universally respected to roundly ridiculed.

“That’s fine, totally fine,” Woods said in Australia, leaning forward on a leather sofa, elbows resting on his knees. “I made my share of mistakes. People can look at that as what not to do, and if they choose to make fun of it, that’s fine. I can’t control that. All I know is that I can only control myself.

“And at that point in my life,” he said, “I wasn’t even able to do that.”

At a gala dinner in the Crown Towers, the same hotel where the nightclub hostess was spotted a year earlier, Woods shared the stage with Shane

Warne, known as the Tiger Woods of Australian cricket, on and off the pitch.

Warne built his legend as a wicked leg spinner — and a prolific womanizer.

“We’ve got a little bit in common,” Warne said with a smile, pausing for effect. “I love golf, too.”

Woods flashed an easy smile, breaking the brief tension in the room, and the audience quickly burst into laughter. It was the first time Woods has laughed publicly about such an embarrassing episode in his life, perhaps a sign that he had indeed turned the corner. On the golf course? Not quite. With two eagles on the last four holes of the Australian Masters, he at least managed fourth place, as well as he did all year. For the first time in his career, Woods didn’t win a single trophy. Instead, he shot the highest 36-hole score of his career when he missed the cut at Quail Hollow, and the highest 72-hole score of his career when he nearly finished last at Firestone.

In so many ways, it was a year

no one could have predicted. “Frenetic would be a word that comes to mind,” said Mark Steinberg, his agent at IMG.

Steinberg was in California when he received word that Woods had been in an accident. He was aware of the National Enquirer story that had been released the day before Thanksgiving, and he was about to learn of an Us Weekly magazine story involving a cocktail waitress, and a voicemail from Woods suggesting his wife was onto them.

For three months, that voicemail was the only time the public heard Woods speak. As his world was imploding, he only spoke through statements released on his website — first a “situation” that was embarrassing, then “transgressions” he regretted with “all my heart.” No one saw him. No one even knew where he was.

Every expert in public relations and crisis management had a field day, blasting his management team for keeping him in hiding as rumors and innuendo filled the void. A year later, Steinberg isn’t convinced it was mishandled.

“First of all, I don’t think anyone has ever experienced this. There certainly was not a road map how to deal with this,” he said. “We consulted with some people who deal with crisis management, and that was the consensus we got.”

But there was more in play. What began with one mistress, maybe two, soon turned into many more. How many? Who knows? Even if some of the alleged mistresses were making it up, it’s not as though the Woods’ camp was in any position to deny it.

“You still had some of it true, some of it not true,” Steinberg said. “Not everything had been revealed. So I’m not sure how he could come out before there was full resolution to everything. That’s really the main reason.”

Players were used to talking about Woods, about his great play and whether anyone could beat him.

This was personal. It was messy.

“Last year at this stage, most of the players were going, ‘How did we miss this?’ Nobody saw it coming,” three-time major champion Padraig Harrington said. “Like the public, we were enthralled by the whole ‘How did he get away it?’”

Geoff Ogilvy referred to Woods as a “great unknown.” They saw him on the golf course, chased by dozens of photographers and thousands of fans. He was in the red shirt on Sunday, more times than not posing with a trophy. And then he was gone.

“What does he do when he goes home if he’s not chipping and putting?” Ogilvy said. “In a perverted sense, at least we got a perspective of what he does when he’s not playing golf. That he actually does something other than play golf.

“I feel sorry for him in a way that it’s not like it was for him,” he said. “The golf world has been interesting the last 12 months. But at least the golf world made sense this time last year. It used to be such a given who was No. 1 in the world.”

The day after Thanksgiving started out like any other. Shoppers headed to the stores at dawn. Leftovers were on the table. Holiday decorations were being unpacked. College football was on television.

Then came a crawler on the TV screen that was shocking: Tiger Woods seriously injured in a car accident.

That was the initial report from the Florida Highway Patrol. And the news became more surreal with the developments that soon unfolded.

The National Enquirer story suddenly had legs. Woods was treated and released from the hospital, and suspicions began stirring when troopers tried for three days to meet him at his home. Four days after the accident, Us Weekly linked him to a cocktail waitress in California who said she had 300 text messages to prove their 31-month relationship. More allegations of affairs followed. □

Lynxes from Estonia to repopulate Poland: WWF

WARSAW – The WWF conservation group said Wednesday it planned to transfer lynxes from Estonia, where the wild felines are thriving, to Poland where the species risks disappearing.

“We want to save the lynx in Poland, where the population is threatened with extinction,” said Pawel Sredzinski, a WWF representative running the organisation’s lynx repopulation programme in Poland.

“We want to transfer the first animals (from Estonia) to Poland by January or February,” he added.

The WWF hopes to introduce 20 to 40 lynxes from Estonia to the Napiwodzko-Ramuckie forests in a remote region of lakes and marshes in northeastern Poland.

With its lush forests and restricted road network, the Baltic state has a flourishing lynx

population.

“During the last decade the number has been increasing and nowadays the number is higher than ever before. The current number is estimated to be around 800 individuals,” Peep Mannil from Estonia’s environment ministry said.

Between 80 to 180 lynxes are killed in Estonia annually by hunters for their fur and skulls.

The WWF has begun fund-raising for the planned transfer of the animals and has asked both Estonian and Polish wildlife authorities for the necessary permits.

In the meantime, the WWF will introduce eight young lynxes born in captivity into the Pisz forest in northeastern Poland.

About 140 Carpathian lynxes (*Lynx lynx carpathicus*) -- a separate sub-species -- live in mountain ranges in southeastern Poland.



A lynx is pictured at a zoo. The WWF conservation group said Wednesday it planned to transfer lynxes from Estonia, where the wild felines are thriving, to Poland where the species risks disappearing



A polar bear is pictured in 2002. The US government on Wednesday designated “critical habitat” for polar bears who live on Alaska’s disappearing sea ice, a move that could impact new oil and gas drilling projects in the Arctic.

WASHINGTON – The US designated “critical habitat” government on Wednesday for polar bears who live on

US designates ‘critical’ polar bear habitat in Arctic

Alaska’s disappearing sea ice, a move that could impact new oil and gas drilling projects in the Arctic.

The Fish and Wildlife Service set aside 187,000 square miles (484,000 square kilometers) off Alaska as the threatened bears’ habitat, which means any project that could impact the animals’ way of life must undergo careful review.

“This critical habitat

designation enables us to work with federal partners to ensure their actions within its boundaries do not harm polar bear populations,” said Tom Strickland, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.

“Nevertheless, the greatest threat to the polar bear is the melting of its sea ice habitat caused by human-induced climate change. We will continue to work toward comprehensive strategies for the long-term survival of this iconic species.”

The move falls short of barring any drilling or other activity in the area, but “identifies geographic areas containing features considered essential for the conservation of the bear that require special management or protection.”

US environmental advocates earlier this month warned that polar bear habitats could be disrupted if oil companies eager to exploit the Arctic for fuel were to experience an accidental spill like the BP gusher in the Gulf of Mexico. The Fish and Wildlife Service acknowledged that the designation, which includes swaths of the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas off northern Alaska, “encompass(es) areas where oil and gas exploration activities are known to occur.” Any activity there would now have to undergo a review to “identify ways to implement

these actions consistent with species conservation,” the statement said.

“This applies to oil and gas development activities, as well as any other activity within the range of the polar bear that may have an adverse affect on the species.”

The United States has classified the polar bear as “threatened,” but not endangered, due to the struggles it endures because the sea ice on which it lives and hunts is melting due to climate change.

The US government is considering opening the Chukchi Sea, a body of water off the coast of Alaska that is shared with Russia, to drilling but is reviewing leases awarded in 2008 after a lawsuit by indigenous people and green groups contended that the government does not have enough facts about how drilling will impact the environment.

Companies like Royal Dutch Shell want to begin drilling in the coming months, once winter ice begins to break up, and are submitting proposals to show they can meet tougher new government regulations. The US Geological Survey said in 2008 that within the Arctic circle there are 90 billion barrels of oil and vast quantities of natural gas waiting to be tapped, most of it offshore. □

New Parrot Species Discovered in Western Australia

DNA experts from Australia have discovered that dwindling populations of ground parrots in Western Australia belong to a different species than those found in the rest of the country, a find with important conservation implications.

A team of researchers from the University of Adelaide and the Australian Wildlife Conservancy used DNA from 160-year-old museum specimens to learn of distinct differences between the ground parrots in the east and west and that the western populations should be recognized as a new species. It has been named *Pezoporus flaviventris*.

The DNA study suggests the two species diverged from each other some 2 million years ago.

“Our findings demonstrate that museum collections, some going back more than 150 years, continue to be relevant and can provide critical information for understanding and conserving the world’s biodiversity into the future,” said team member Jeremy Austin, of the Australian Centre for Ancient DNA at the

University of Adelaide.

While excited about the discovery, researchers were also concerned for the survival of these newly classified birds.

“The discovery has major conservation implications,” said team member Stephen Murphy of the Australian Wildlife Conservancy. “The western ground parrot has declined rapidly in the last 20 years; there are now only about 110 birds surviving in the wild, and most of these are confined to a single national park. It is now one of the world’s rarest birds.”

Several threats loom for the parrots.

“A single wildfire through the national park or an influx of introduced predators, such as cats, could rapidly push the species to extinction.

There is now an urgent need to prevent further population declines and to establish insurance populations into parts of the former range,” said team member Allan Burbidge of the Western Australia Department of Environment and Conservation. □

Box Office Preview: 'Potter' to win weekend tangle



In this film publicity image released by Warner Bros. Pictures, Robbie Coltrane, left, and Daniel Radcliffe are shown in a scene from 'Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1.'

(AP Photo/Warner Bros. Pictures, Jaap Buitendijk)

By PAULDERGARABEDIAN, LOS ANGELES —
For The Associated Press Thanksgiving weekend will

offer a veritable feast of film choices for U.S. audiences, but the global juggernaut that is "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Part 1" will continue its box-office magic, earning a winning \$80 million-plus for the five-day holiday period.

A 10-day domestic total of well over \$200 million is also in the cards for this next-to-the-last film in the eight-part Warner Bros. franchise.

Disney is always a traditional family favorite during the holidays and this year will be no exception with the 3-D release of the animated fairy tale "Tangled," an updated version of "Rapunzel" likely

to draw crowds young and old to the tune of more than \$40 million for the five-day timeframe.

Sony's "Burlesque" brings music superstars Christina Aguilera and Cher together in the story of a small town girl who comes to Los Angeles to work in a burlesque club run by a veteran of the scene. With appeal to those looking for a musically-themed film with risque dance numbers and visual pageantry, "Burlesque" should shimmy through the long weekend with around \$20 million.

Of course, no holiday weekend would be complete without an

action film for the guys and a romantic comedy for the gals, and CBS Films' "Faster" and Fox's "Love and Other Drugs" are going to duke it out for the weekend's fourth and fifth spots.

"Faster" features action "go to" guy Dwayne Johnson and should earn around \$16 million for the five-day period. "Love and Other Drug's" Anne Hathaway and Jake Gyllenhaal will definitely make their mark with younger women looking to fill up on romance over Thanksgiving, pulling in about \$15 million for the holiday weekend.

Rapper DMX denied bail, remains in Arizona jail



Earl Simmons, aka rap artist DMX, is shown in this Maricopa County Sheriff Department booking mugshot released to Reuters March 9, 2010.

PHOENIX — An Arizona judge on Wednesday denied bail for rapper DMX, keeping him jailed on charges that he violated probation by using drugs, court officials said. The 39 year-old rapper, whose real name is Earl Simmons, was arrested Thursday for probation violations that included using cocaine and Oxycontin, failing to submit to drug testing and counseling, and driving with a suspended license.

Simmons denied those allegations during a brief hearing before Court Commissioner Christine Mulleneaux in Maricopa County, Arizona. His next hearing is set for December 9. The rapper, whose albums include "It's Dark and Hell is Hot," is currently on probation for attempted aggravated assault and using a fake name to avoid paying a \$7,500 hospital bill. He has a long history of legal problems in Arizona.



FILE -- A March 25, 2010 file photo shows Kelly Preston, right, a cast member in 'The Last Song,' with her husband John Travolta at the premiere of the film in Los Angeles. Travolta and Preston's publicist said the couple had a baby boy Tuesday Nov. 23, 2010 in Florida.

(AP Photo/Chris Pizzello/file)

It's a boy for John Travolta and Kelly Preston

LOS ANGELES — John Travolta and Kelly Preston will have a new guest at their Thanksgiving table.

A publicist says the couple welcomed a baby boy Tuesday in Florida. They named their new son Benjamin.

The eight-pound, three-ounce boy was born at an undisclosed Florida hospital.

Spokeswoman Samantha Mast said in a statement late Tuesday that the couple and their daughter, Ella Bleu, "are ecstatic and very happy about the newest member of the family." The statement says Preston and baby Benjamin "are healthy and doing beautifully."

This is the third child for Travolta and Preston, who were married in 1991. Their eldest child, son Jett, died last year at age 16.



FILE - In this May 6, 2010 file photo, TV personality George Lopez and his wife Ann arrive at the 10th Annual Lupus LA Orange Ball in Beverly Hills, Calif.

(AP Photo/Chris Pizzello, file)

Comedian George Lopez's wife files for divorce

LOS ANGELES — George Lopez and his wife of 17 years are making their breakup official with her filing for divorce.

Ann Serrano Lopez filed her petition, citing irreconcilable difference, on Tuesday in Los Angeles.

The pair announced their breakup in September and said they would remain partners in a charitable foundation. They have a 14-year-old daughter, and Ann Lopez is seeking physical custody.

The filings do not offer any additional details about the split.

The pair were married in September 1993 and did not list a separation date.

The filing was first reported by celebrity website TMZ. The 49-year-old comedian hosts the talkshow "Lopez Tonight" on TBS.

BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

Consumers spend and earn more, layoffs slow

A FedEx employee sorts packages next to his truck, Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2010 in New York. The holiday season is the busiest of the year for the Memphis-based delivery company. Americans loosened the grips on their wallets and spent more last month, a hopeful sign as shoppers head into the holiday buying season.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

By JEANNINE AVERSA,
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Americans earned more and spent more last month, and the number of people applying for unemployment benefits dropped last week to the lowest level in more than two years. At the same time, demand for long-lasting manufactured goods and new homes fell off.

All told, the latest government data released the day before Thanksgiving suggest an improving picture of the economy. Income and spending are rising, and layoffs are slowing. This comes amid a decline in manufacturing activity, which had been a source of strength for months after the recession ended, and a struggling housing market. Analysts question whether incomes can continue to grow at a consistent pace and keep consumers spending enough to invigorate the economy.

“The flurry of U.S. data this morning suggests that households have started to pickup the baton of growth from businesses,” said Paul Dales, U.S. economist at Capital Economics. “Whether or not households will be able to shoulder the burden of growth on their own is another matter.”

Investors appeared to be pleased by the data. The Dow Jones industrial average climbed more than 137 points in the early morning trading. Consumers boosted their spending 0.4 percent in October, the Commerce Department said Wednesday. That was up from a 0.3 percent increase in September.

People showed a slightly bigger appetite to spend because their incomes rose 0.5 percent, reflecting a slowly healing jobs market that gave a boost to wages and salaries. Incomes didn’t grow at all in September. The increases in both income and spending last month were the most since August.

And inflation is running lower at a record low. Prices for goods excluding food and energy rose just 0.9 percent in the 12 months ending in October, the Commerce report noted. That was down from a 1.2 percent annual gain posted in September. Inflation is running at a pace below the Fed’s comfort zone of between 1.5 percent and 2 percent.

“We have a good signal,” John Silvia, chief economist at Wells Fargo, said of the jobless claims and consumer spending reports.

The pace of layoffs slowed to the lowest level since July

2008. Initial jobless claims dropped by 34,000 to a seasonally adjusted 407,000 in the week ending Nov. 20, the Labor Department said. The report raised hopes that more gains in hiring will be seen.

Still, another report showed that orders to U.S. factories for costly manufactured goods plunged in October by the largest amount in 21 months. Durable-goods orders dropped 3.3 percent last month, the biggest setback since January 2009, when the country was still mired in a recession.

Of special concern was a 4.5 percent drop in orders for nondefense capital goods, excluding aircraft. This category is viewed as a good proxy for business investment plans. It was the biggest drop since a 5.3 percent fall in July. Meanwhile, sales of new homes fell in October to near a record low and home prices dropped to the lowest point in seven years.

Sales of new single-family homes declined 8.1 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 283,000 units in October, Commerce said in another report. That was just 2.9 percent above the all-time low of 275,000 units hit in August for government records that go back to 1963. The median price of a home sold in October dipped to \$194,900, the lowest level since October 2003.

Even with the pickup in spending, consumers are still shying away from the type of buying needed to dramatically lower the 9.6 unemployment rate.

Normally after a recession, consumers spend more freely. But more than one year after the recession ended, Americans are more focused on getting their personal finances in order. They are paring down debt, watching their spending and building savings. □



FILE - In this file photo taken Nov. 11, 2010, traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew, file)

Stocks sharply higher on drop in jobless claims

By MATTHEW CRAFT,
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — Stocks rose sharply Wednesday after a batch of economic reports offered some hope that the U.S. economy was improving.

Investors seized on encouraging readings on the labor market and Americans’ incomes while shrugging off a steep fall in new home sales and manufacturing orders.

The rebound suggests that investors are no longer counting on a rebound in the housing market to prod the economy forward, said Tim Speiss, chair of the wealth advisory group at EisnerAmper. “Markets have already ascertained there’s no relief coming from the housing market,” Speiss said.

Speiss said investors were right to focus on the improved signs in employment and consumer spending, which are far more important to an economic recovery than home sales or manufacturing orders.

“If we don’t have strong consumer spending in this economy, we’re in trouble,” he added. “When there’s spending, manufacturing will increase to meet that demand.”

The upturn marked an abrupt reversal from Tuesday, when an exchange of artillery fire between North and South Korea led nervous investors to sell stocks and dash into gold, Treasuries and other assets often used as hiding spots.

The government said first-time claims for unemployment benefits fell 34,000 to 407,000 last week. That was much better than the 435,000 new claims economists had expected.

A separate report showed that Americans’ incomes rose 0.5 percent last month, slightly better than expected. Their spending rose 0.4 percent, up slightly from September.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 134, or 1.2 percent, to 11,171 in early afternoon trading.

The Standard & Poor’s 500 index gained 15, or 1.3 percent, to 1,196. The Nasdaq composite index rose 47, or 1.9 percent, to 2,542.

Safety assets moved lower as investors became more willing to take on risk. The dollar and gold both fell, while Treasury prices edged lower, pushing their yields higher. The yield on the 10-year note inched up to 2.85 percent from 2.77 percent Tuesday. Investors largely dismissed downbeat reports showing declines in sales of manufactured goods and new home sales. □



3 big developments make AIDS outlook more hopeful



FILE - This May 26, 2006 file photo, shows a close up of Gilead Sciences Inc.'s Truvada pill in a lab in a Foster City, Calif. Scientists have an exciting breakthrough in the fight against AIDS. Daily doses of Truvada, a pill already used to treat infection with HIV, the virus that causes the disease, helped prevent healthy gay men from catching it through sex with an infected partner. In a study of gay and bisexual men in six countries, the pill, cut the risk of infection by 44 percent when given with condoms, counseling and other prevention services. Men who took their pills most faithfully, at least 90 percent of the time, had even more protection — 73 percent.

By **MARILYNN MARCHIONE**,
AP Medical Writer

In the nearly 30 years the AIDS epidemic has raged, there has never been a more hopeful day than this. Three striking developments took place Tuesday: U.N. officials said new HIV cases are dropping dramatically worldwide. A study showed that a daily pill already on pharmacy shelves could help prevent new infections in gay men. And the pope opened the way for the use of condoms to prevent AIDS.

"I don't know of a day where

(AP Photo/Paul Sakuma, File)

so many pieces are beginning to align for HIV prevention and treatment, and frankly with a view to ending the epidemic," said Mitchell Warren, head of the AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition, a nonprofit group that works on HIV prevention research. "This is an incredibly opportune moment and we have to be sure we seize it." President Barack Obama said the groundbreaking research on the AIDS drug "could mark the beginning of a new era in HIV prevention."

The U.N. report said that new cases dropped nearly 20 percent over the last decade

and that 33.3 million people are living with HIV now.

"We can say with confidence and conviction that we have broken the trajectory of the AIDS pandemic," said UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibe in Geneva. Health officials credit part of the decline to wider condom use, and on Tuesday, in a historic shift in church teachings, the Vatican said that using a condom is a lesser evil than infecting a sexual partner with HIV.

Condoms remain the best weapon against AIDS, and the new prevention pill is not the chemical equivalent. But scientists called it a true breakthrough. The pill, Gilead Science's Truvada, is already used to treat people with HIV. A three-year global study found that daily doses cut the risk of infection in healthy gay and bisexual men when given with condoms, counseling and other prevention services.

The drug lowered the chances of infection by 44 percent, and by 73 percent or more among men who took their pills most faithfully. Researchers had feared the pills might give a false sense of security and make men less likely to use condoms or to limit their partners, but the opposite happened — risky sex declined. The results are "a major advance" that can help curb the epidemic in gay men, said Dr. Kevin Fenton, AIDS prevention chief at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention. But he warned they may not apply to people exposed to HIV through male-female sex, drug use or other ways. Studies in those groups are under way.

Because Truvada is already on the market, the CDC is rushing to develop guidelines for doctors who want to use it to prevent HIV, and urged people to wait until those are ready.

As a practical matter, price could limit use. The pills cost \$5,000 to \$14,000 a year in the United States, but roughly \$140 a year in some poor countries where they are sold in generic form.

Whether insurers or government health programs should pay for them is one of the tough issues to be sorted out, said Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

"This is an exciting finding," but it "is only one study in one specific study population," so its impact on others is unknown, Fauci said.

His institute sponsored the study with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The findings were published online by the New England Journal of Medicine.

It is the third AIDS prevention victory in about a year. In September 2009, scientists announced that a vaccine they are now trying to improve protected 1 in 3 people from getting HIV in a study in Thailand. In July, research

in South Africa showed that a vaginal gel spiked with an AIDS drug could cut nearly in half a woman's chances of getting HIV from an infected partner.

Gay and bisexual men account for nearly half of the more than 1 million Americans living with HIV. Worldwide, more than 7,000 new infections occur each day. Only 5 to 10 percent of global cases involve sex between men.

"The condom is still the first line of defense," because it also prevents other sexually spread diseases and unwanted pregnancies, said the study leader, Dr. Robert M. Grant of the Gladstone Institutes, a private foundation affiliated with the University of California, San Francisco. But many men don't or won't use condoms all the time, so researchers have been testing other prevention tools.

AIDS drugs already are used to prevent infection in health care workers accidentally exposed to HIV, and in babies born to infected mothers. Taking these drugs before exposure to the virus may keep it from taking hold, just as taking malaria pills in advance can prevent that disease when someone is bitten by an infected mosquito. The strategy showed great promise in monkey studies using tenofovir (brand name Viread) and emtricitabine, or FTC (Emtriva), sold in combination as Truvada by California-based Gilead Sciences Inc. □



ouch!

December 1st is World AIDS Day

DISCRIMINATION DOES NOT
PROTECT AGAINST HIV... IT HURTS

Best diabetes fitness plan: aerobics plus weights



Deidra Atkins-Ball, 44, walks in Forest Park Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2010, in Baton Rouge, La. Atkins-Ball has diabetes and took part in a study where she was in a nine-month fitness program combining aerobics and weight training. She successfully lowered her blood sugar levels. People with diabetes should mix aerobics with weight training to get the best results in lowering blood sugar, a new study suggests. The combination worked best for weight loss too, compared to aerobics or weight training alone. Blood sugar is fuel to muscles, and more sugar is burned during aerobic activity. Weight training builds more muscle, and both activities change muscle proteins in ways that enhance the process.

(AP Photo/Bill Feig)

By CARLA K. JOHNSON, AP Medical Writer
CHICAGO — People with diabetes should mix aerobics with weight training to get the best results in lowering blood sugar, a new study suggests. The combination worked best for weight loss too, compared to aerobics or weight training alone.

Blood sugar is fuel to muscles, and more sugar is burned during aerobic activity. Weight training builds more muscle, and both activities change muscle proteins in ways that enhance the process.

"It's clear that doing both aerobic and strength training is superior to either alone," said lead author Dr. Tim Church of Pennington Biomedical Research Center

in Baton Rouge, La. "It's almost like taking two different drugs."

Patients in the study, published in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association, achieved the results over nine months, exercising three days a week for about 45 minutes each session.

"People can manage this amount of exercise," said Laurie Goodyear of Joslin Diabetes Center in Boston, who wasn't involved in the new study but does similar research. "They didn't have to go on a diet. This was purely an exercise effect."

The researchers' goal was to test three exercise programs that doctors could realistically recommend and patients could stick with.

They compared aerobics alone, weight training alone and a combination. U.S. guidelines recommend aerobics and weight training combined for all adults.

All three groups worked out for about the same amount of time. A fourth group of patients was offered only weekly stretching and relaxation classes for further comparison. The study was completed by 245 people with diabetes.

Led by trainers, patients walked on a treadmill that raised the uphill grade by 2 percent every two minutes for the aerobics. Weight training, also supervised, was done on machines that worked muscles in the upper body and legs, with more weight added as participants increased their strength.

"It gave me a lot more energy. That was one of the first things I noticed," said Deidra Atkins-Ball, 44, a biology professor, diagnosed with diabetes a year before she joined the aerobics-weights group.

A distant aunt with diabetes lost both legs and her vision to the disease. Too much blood sugar can damage nerves, eyes, the heart and blood vessels.

"I remember as a kid having to do things for her, going to the store for her," Atkins-Ball said. "It really scared me."

The researchers found that only the group that combined aerobics and weights both lowered their blood sugar and lost weight, although all three fitness groups reduced their waist sizes.

Fewer patients in the combo group started taking new diabetes drugs than in the other groups. Decisions on medications were left up to the patients' regular doctors during the study.

Forty-one percent of the patients in the combo group either decreased their diabetes medications or lowered their average blood sugar as measured by a common blood test,

compared to 26 percent for weights only, 29 percent for aerobics only and 22 percent in the non-exercise group.

The blood sugar reduction achieved by the combo group was enough to reduce the risk of heart attacks, strokes and other complications, the researchers wrote, citing earlier studies.

Atkins-Ball's results were good, if not long-lasting. She dropped 4 pounds and saw her blood sugar reach near normal levels. When the program ended, she joined a gym and kept exercising — for a while.

Then she got busy, let her gym membership lapse after a year and has seen her blood sugar levels climb. She's now taking two diabetes drugs, instead of the one she took during the study.

Atkins-Ball is trying to get back into an exercise routine by walking two miles with her husband in the mornings. Her advice for others with diabetes is to get into a structured exercise program.

"That's what helped me the most," she said. □

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In-Car Technologies Not Safe for Drivers, Experts Say

Samantha Murphy

Technology is everywhere these days, and cars are no exception. From built-in Internet hot spots and iPad docks attached to seat headrests to state-of-the-art TVs, many drivers are cruising around with the latest high-tech frills and accessories in their ride.

But even when it is designed to help drivers keep both hands on the wheel, such technology can cause "cognitive distractions" and are ultimately dangerous, experts say.

Among the most controversial is Ford's latest enhancement of its popular voice-activated SYNC in-car communications system. The driver interface called MyFord Touch is entirely voice-controlled, including entertainment - AM/FM and satellite radio, HD, CD, MP3 - as well as climate control, phone and navigation. MyFord Touch also uses the power of a smartphone to access and control other applications. Users have the ability to listen to streaming music from online music services, stay in touch with the news and check out the latest Twitter messages - all without taking their hands off the wheel.

Since SYNC technology does away with fumbling for the phone, allowing drivers to keep their eyes on the road, Ford says it can help make highways safer.

"Ford is committed to

addressing driver distraction in empirical, research-driven ways and implementing our findings in active safety systems and advanced infotainment systems throughout our vehicle lines," Louis Tijerina, Ford senior technical specialist, said in a recent statement.

Distraction prevention

According to a recent study conducted by the Ford Motor Co. in 2009, the SYNC hands-free system significantly reduced the level of distraction for drivers who used it - from dialing a number to choosing a song - instead of hand-held devices.

Ford researchers measured total eyes-off-the-road time, deviation of lane position, speed variability and object detection response time to identify differences in attentiveness and driving performance while using the Ford SYNC technology. Ford found that drivers meandered over lane lines in more than 30 percent of trials using hand-held phones and music players, as compared to 0 percent when performing those same tasks with SYNC. On its website, Ford also refers to a study from Virginia Tech that followed 109 drivers for one year, entailing 43,000 hours and over 2 million miles of driving. The report showed that manually dialing a hand-held device while driving (a task that requires looks away from the road) was almost 2.8 times riskier than just driving.

Virginia Tech also reported that almost 80 percent of all crashes and 65 percent of all near-misses occurred just after a glance away from the road.

"These results strongly suggest that SYNC's voice-interface offers substantial advantages compared to manipulating a carried-in device to do the same task," Tijerina said.

The controversy

However, not everyone agrees that Ford's in-car technology is beneficial to drivers.

"Ford may say it's hands-free, but it's certainly not risk-free," said Robert Sinclair Jr., manager of media relations for the auto club AAA New York. "The distractions that do exist are very mentally distracting, especially when it comes to checking social networking sites. We find all of this very disturbing."

Sinclair said he believes engaging in social media sites while on the road demands significantly more concentration than a phone call.

"Going on Facebook or sending a Tweet is engaging in a complex conversation that should absolutely not be done while driving," he said. "Drivers are already controlling a heavy object, watching out for lights, signs and, of course, other vehicles. Just a two-second distraction is enough time for someone to be involved in a crash."

"Car manufacturers think they are doing the right thing and that they are on God's side

by preventing someone from using a hand-held device, but it's just more harm than good," Sinclair added.

David Strayer, a cognitive scientist at the University of Utah who studies distracted driving, agrees that this type of technology in cars is unsafe. "Some activities such as listening to the radio are passive, but others such as texting and checking Facebook are not," Strayer told TechNewsDaily. "The mind can only do one thing at once when driving - it's been long published in scientific journals. People who say that in-car technology is not distracting to drivers just don't know the science of the brain." U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood is fighting to disable the use of certain technologies in cars. LaHood recently launched a "Faces of Distracted Driving" campaign, an online video series exploring the tragic consequences of texting and using a cell phone while driving.

The series features people from across the country that have been injured or lost loved ones in distracted driving crashes. In 2009, nearly 5,500 people died and half a million were injured in accidents involving a distracted driver. "If there was a drug on the market that killed that many people each year, it would be immediately removed," Strayer said.

Strayer noted there is a huge

social-political struggle on the table since tens of billions of dollars are at stake.

"There's a lot of money to be had for consumer electronic companies, automakers and others, but it also has a huge impact on insurance companies," Strayer said. "They are very alarmed and concerned about the trend and also don't want customers using any technology while driving."

More technology

Of particular concern for car safety experts is the installation of TVs inside vehicles - sometimes even in the front seats.

"Installing a TV anywhere in the front seat of a car is illegal in some states, including New York," Sinclair said. "Only navigation screens are allowed up front, and even those can be distracting."

In many cases, people with TVs in the front seats get busted. A driver in New York state was recently pulled over after he was spotted watching pornography from a front-seat TV while he was stopped at a light. (He didn't realize a police station was right across the street.)

Another man had installed 15 monitors in his vehicle - including one on the inside of the flap covering the gas tank, so he could watch TV as he refilled his car. He was also caught.

"This just goes to show the lack of seriousness and the attitude of those operating vehicles," Sinclair said. "Driving is not downtime to engage in other activities."

The distractions can be lethal. A truck driver who was watching a movie accidentally hit and killed a woman who was parked on the side of a highway.

"People know deep down they shouldn't be participating in these types of distractions while driving, but if they try it a few times because they are bored and don't crash, they think they are safe," Strayer said. "However, it's critical that people only focus on driving while driving. It's not the right time to be entertained." □



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México: detienen a suegro y sucesor de capo "La Barbie"

Agencias/AP

La Policía Federal capturó de un hombre identificado como el suegro y sucesor del presunto



capo de las drogas Edgar Valdez Villarreal, alias "La Barbie", informó el miércoles el jefe antidrogas de la corporación, Ramón Pequeño.

Carlos Montemayor, alias "El Charro", fue detenido el martes junto con dos presuntos cómplices y declaró a las autoridades que una facción del grupo de "La Barbie" en el puerto turístico de Acapulco fue el responsable del secuestro de 20 turistas del estado occidental de Michoacán porque fueron confundidos con integrantes del cartel rival de La Familia.

La captura de "El Charro" se logró gracias al intercambio de información con la agencia antidrogas estadounidense (DEA), señaló Pequeño.

Agregó que Montemayor "asumió el liderazgo de la organización por indicación de 'La Barbie'", luego de que éste fue capturado a finales de agosto.

Colombia: Al menos cinco mineros muertos en dos accidentes

Agencias/AP

Al menos cinco mineros murieron y otros cuatro continúan desaparecidos tras dos accidentes en minas de carbón del centro de Colombia, informaron el miércoles autoridades de rescate.

El primer accidente ocurrió en una explotación de carbón en el municipio de Lenguazaque, en el departamento de Cundinamarca, unos 85 kilómetros al noreste de Bogotá. Pasado el mediodía del martes dos hombres murieron por "carencia de oxígeno y presencia de dióxido de carbono", dijo el oficial Instituto Colombiano de Geología y Minería (Ingeominas) en un comunicado. Jaime Matiz, director de la Oficina de Prevención y Atención de Desastres de Cundinamarca, explicó en diálogo telefónico que se desconocen las causas del accidente y que otros dos mineros que resultaron heridos ya fueron evacuados.

Un segundo accidente ocurrió a las 3.00 pm (20.00 GMT) del martes en otra mina de carbón en Guachetá, también en Cundinamarca y a unos 90 kilómetros al noreste de la capital, añadió el Instituto.

Paraguay: Presidente Lugo deja de saludar con la mano, por salud



Presidente Lugo

A pocos días de su sexta sesión de quimioterapia, el presidente Fernando Lugo extremó el miércoles sus cuidados personales debido al cáncer linfático que padece evitando estrechar la mano de alumnos de una escuela militar durante la ceremonia de egreso como nuevos oficiales.

Unos 77 cadetes se graduaron con el rango de subteniente y guardiamarina pero el jefe

de Estado sólo entregó a cada uno el sable de oficial sin estrechar sus manos, cumpliendo las indicaciones de sus médicos Alfredo Boccia y Néstor Martínez a fin de evitar posibles contagios de virus que afecten las vías respiratorias. Lugo sufrió a comienzos de octubre una trombosis de la vena cava superior que los obligó a restringir sus exposiciones públicas.

'Pena a Murcia se podría reducir por buena conducta', dijo su abogado

Robert Abreu, defensor del fundador de DMG, dijo que la condena que se negocia es de 9 años

Abreu indicó, en entrevista a Caracol Radio, que gracias a la negociación que se llevó con la justicia norteamericana, David Murcia se comprometió a entregar propiedades por un valor de 7 millones de dólares, de los que un porcentaje se usaría para la reparación de las víctimas en Colombia. De esta manera, Murcia se beneficiaría con una reducción en la condena que por lavados de activos purgará en Norteamérica.



David Murcia

"A estos 9 años se le descuentan el tiempo que lleva preso desde su extradición y más el descuento por buena conducta en prisión la pena se podría reducir en otro porcentaje", agregó Abreu.

El defensor de Murcia aseguró que el ex director de la Dian, Carlos Espinoza, estaría recibiendo apoyo del gobierno estadounidense luego de ser acusado por Murcia como partícipe en el lavado de activos.

"Lo único que sé es que no está preso como David y eso es muy extraño. Alguien lo está respaldando, porque si Murcia dice que Espinoza fue el que trajo la idea de DMG a Estados Unidos, debería estar con los otros acusados", afirmó Abreu.

Brasil Bandas de criminales desafían a la policía por cuarto día consecutivo

Reuters

Presuntos miembros de bandas de narcotraficantes de Río de Janeiro siguieron quemando automóviles y autobuses hoy miércoles en el cuarto día de violencia que desafiaba a una mayor presencia policial e incursiones en favelas. La ola de violencia ha arrojado más dudas sobre la capacidad del país de organizar en un ambiente seguro la Copa Mundial del 2014 y los Juegos Olímpicos del 2016 y ha opacado la imagen de una ciudad conocida por mucho tiempo por sus icónicas playas y estilo de vida relajado y tropical. Asaltantes prendieron fuego al menos a 11 automóviles y autobuses luego de detenerlos y obligar a sus ocupantes a salir el martes en la noche y el miércoles en la mañana. Mientras tanto, la policía continuó con incursiones en helicópteros y vehículos blindados en busca de supuestos narcotraficantes en favelas. Hombres armados abrieron fuego sobre al menos una estación de la policía, luego de un ataque similar previamente esta semana. La violencia comenzó el domingo, con ataques a estaciones de la policía y la quema de vehículos, acciones que según la máxima autoridad de seguridad de Río de Janeiro fueron ordenadas por miembros de bandas encarcelados.

MUERTOS

Las autoridades afirman que los ataques de los narcotraficantes son en protesta por haber sido expulsados de sus reductos por ocupaciones policiales de más de una docena de favelas en los últimos dos años. Se informó de la muerte de dos personas el martes durante incursiones en favelas, mientras que otras dos perdieron la vida cuando el automóvil en el que se desplazaban fue blanco de disparos en un incidente que parece no estar relacionado con el resto de los actos de violencia. Los esfuerzos de pacificación han llevado la paz a muchas favelas que sufrieron durante años por conflictos entre la policía y las bandas. Pero cientos de comunidades pobres en la ciudad de 6 millones de habitantes aún son áreas en las que no entra la policía.



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